



# THE INDEPENDENT

Thursday 6 November 1997 45p (IR50p) No 3,447

Robson declines Pleat job

## INSIDE TODAY

### HEALTH/5

Why fitness centres are bad for you



TV/20  
Death of 'This Life', the true story

EDUCATION +  
Universities turn commercial

## TODAY'S NEWS

### Animal testing U-turn

The use of animals to test cosmetic products is to end in Britain, after a dramatic change of heart by the Government. The initiative, which will be announced later today, comes two weeks after *The Independent* revealed Labour had reneged on its election promise to ban experiments on animals to test cosmetics. Page 3

### Louise must still wait

The jailed au pair Louise Woodward must wait until next week before she knows whether moves to reduce her sentence will be granted. The trial judge Hillier Zobel made it known through court officials in Cambridge, Massachusetts, that his decision will not be released until Monday morning at the very earliest. The judge has to decide whether to order her acquittal, reduce the sentence to manslaughter, order a re-trial, or let the verdict stand. Page 3

### Pilot saves plane

An Airbus pilot who safely landed 114 passengers and crew at Heathrow airport after part of his landing gear failed explained how it was all in a day's work. Captain Tim Barnaby said he had been confident he could bring down the Virgin Atlantic airliner in one piece. The company said the pilot made a textbook emergency landing. A total of nine passengers and crew were treated afterwards, all for minor injuries. Page 4

### Snow keeps his job

The only person guaranteed a job with Channel 4 News when the programme's ITN contract ends in June 1999 is its presenter, Jon Snow. Focus group research shows he is the programme's biggest asset. Viewers believe Snow combines 'gravitas and authority' while carrying a 'whiff of the anti-establishment' about him. Page 9

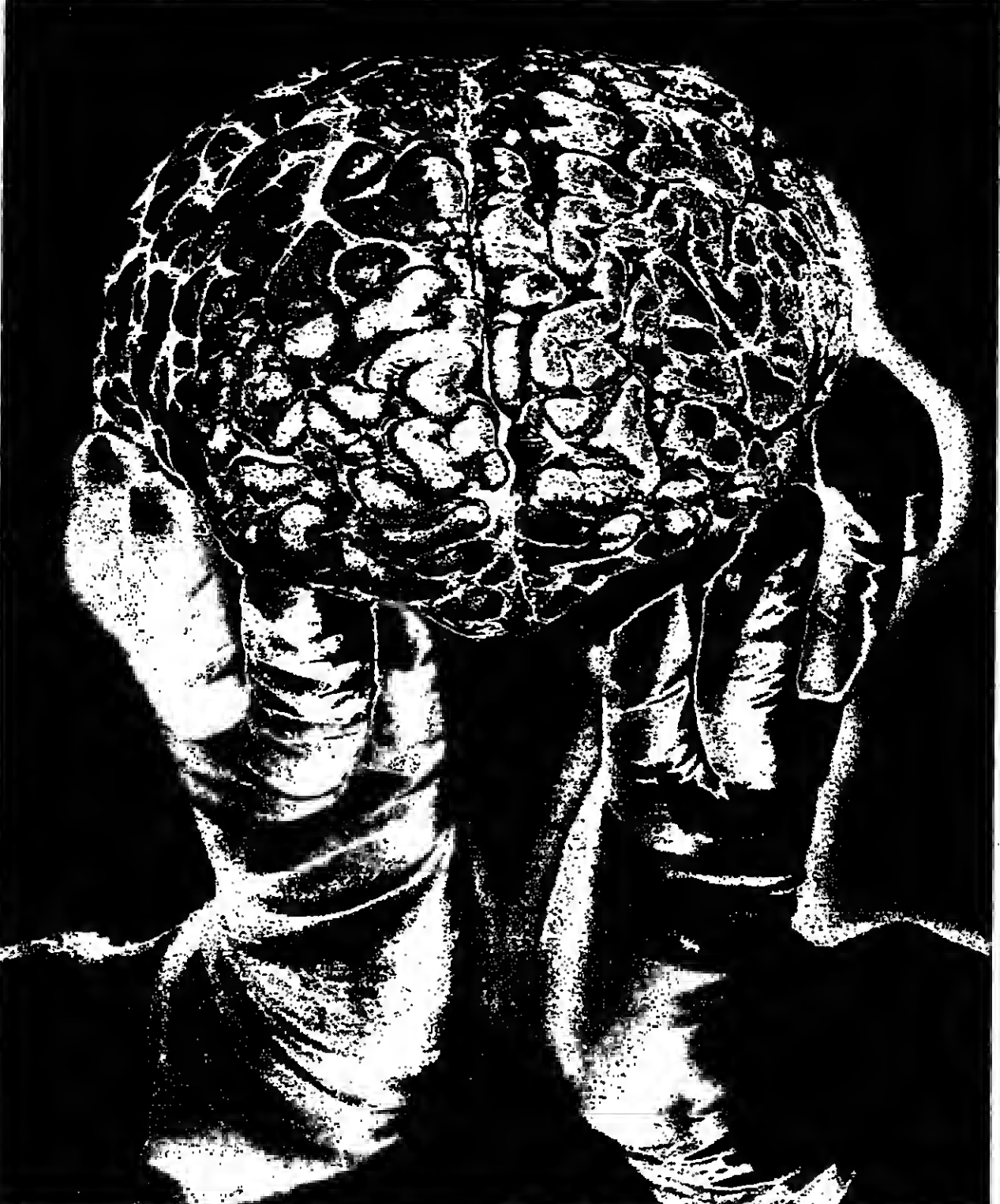
### Masterclass for gifted

Gifted primary schoolchildren could be taught in masterclasses as part of an expanded programme of specialist schools. Ten per cent of pupils for the schools specialising in technology, sport, music or arts, will be selected on aptitude. Page 18

## SEEN & HEARD

Are you now, or have you ever been, a friend of Bill Clinton? In an attempt to find all the President's women, a television advertisement is running in Washington calling on women who may have been sexually harassed "by the President" to make themselves known, giving a toll-free number to call. It has been placed by backers of Paula Jones - the woman who is suing President Clinton for sexual harassment, alleging that he exposed himself to her in an Arkansas hotel room when he was state governor. Ms Jones, who rejected an offer of compensation over the summer because it did not incorporate an admission of Mr Clinton's responsibility, now has new lawyers who are trying to prove "a pattern of behaviour" by Mr Clinton.

## Proof positive. Taking Ecstasy permanently alters your brain



Ecstasy and agony: a real brain highlighted to show its contours. Scientists fear that regular drug-taking could lead to depression and suicide  
Geoff Tompkinson/Science Photo Library

The first formal studies using brain scans show that regular Ecstasy users are permanently changing their brains. Isn't that bad news? Well, maybe, maybe not: our brains might take it in their stride, just as they do so much else. Charles Arthur, Science Editor, looks at the implications.

Though small, the number is sufficient to pinpoint differences between groups using PET. Dr Ricaurte examined the peoples' brains to evaluate the activity of the millions of brain synapses which release a neurotransmitter called serotonin - the "happiness chemical". The control subjects had normal levels of serotonin activity. The Ecstasy users, though, showed deficiencies in all brain regions.

The brain scans are unequivocal. For the first time, scientists have demonstrated that long-term users of the "rave drug" Ecstasy are permanently altering their brains. The tough question now is, are they actually damaging them?

Though the effects of the changes could take years or even decades to show up, it is potentially serious news for the UK's estimated 500,000 regular "E" users, who each take one or two tablets every weekend. If the brain cannot compensate for the changes caused by the drug, the long-term effects could include widespread depression and even suicide.

That is because Ecstasy affects the production of a chemical that modulates how happy we feel. In effect, repeated use might leave the brain drained of that chemical. But scientists are still debating whether, over time, our most adaptable organ might make allowances even for that change.

The latest research by George Ricaurte, assistant professor of neurology at Johns Hopkins University, used positron emission tomography (PET) scanners, which can produce detailed images of active areas of the brain, to study two groups, each of 14 recreational drugs users.

The first group used Ecstasy and other drugs; the others used drugs excluding Ecstasy.

Una McCann, one of the team members, told *New Scientist* magazine that this is clear evidence that Ecstasy damages serotonin-generating synapses: "The message is that if you're going to use it, do it in moderation." But David Concar, the deputy editor of *New Scientist* and a PhD in biochemistry, pointed out last night that the case against Ecstasy may not be so clear-cut. "The really tricky point about this is whether you call these changes 'damage', or whether they are chemical responses to the drug which would in time reverse themselves." A scientist for the US Environmental Protection Agency commented that "there's no evidence of structural damage".

The knee-jerk reaction by drug opponents would be to point to this study as definitive evidence that Ecstasy does damage. Earlier studies using questionnaires have shown, though less convincingly than PET scans, that regular users of Ecstasy tend to be more depressed than non-users.

But that is not incontrovertible evidence of permanent damage. The human brain repeatedly demonstrates that it is capable of withstanding massive amounts of damage and rebuilding itself: people who have suffered even serious strokes often regain many faculties, demonstrating that even real damage in which neurons actually die can be overcome.

## Blair's cool Britannia is left out in the euro cold

Tony Blair will lay on a show of the best of British design, culture and food at Canary Wharf in east London for the French President and Prime Minister, who arrive today. But he will also be trying to prevent Britain from becoming politically marginalised in Europe by the creation of a single currency. Anthony Bevins, Katherine Butler and John Lichfield report.

some of the designers with work. The furniture designers include Jasper Morrison and Matthew Hilton, who have both worked for Italian manufacturers, Fred Scott, Tom Dixon, Terence Woodgate, Oubaholyodin, Tristram Mylius, Lynne Wilson and Michael Young.

Rugs are to be provided by Christopher Farr, light sculpture by Jeremy Lord, flower arrangements from Paula Pryke - and the food from Anton Escalera, of the Midsummer House Restaurant, Cambridge. But for all the assertive British cultural diplomacy, there is also a serious topic on the table: the creation of a single currency and the new council which will manage it from 1999. The Government will not participate unless and until it merges the pound into the euro, and hence will be excluded from decision-making on some of the key issues in Europe.

Britain's marginalisation took concrete shape last night as France and Germany unveiled details of their plans for a new "council" to co-ordinate economic policy making. They made public a letter detailing a bilateral agreement on the Euro-council.

The new economic "government" will be known as the "Euro-X", the X representing the number of countries in the euro zone. Finance ministers from the zone will meet before the regular monthly meetings of EU finance ministers to co-ordinate a wide range of areas, from budgetary policies to taxation.

The letter directly challenges Gordon Brown's assertion that Britain will set the agenda in Europe on employment policy, for instance. Among the areas the council will cover are "structural policies... in particular employment and labour market policies on the adaptability of markets and on tax reform" as well as "evaluation of wage and cost trends". Britain will be excluded from meetings on these subjects.

The Chancellor made it clear yesterday that he is deeply unhappy with any bid to undermine the central role of Ecofin, the official EU council of finance ministers. "Ecofin remains the body that takes formal decisions," he said. Yet, according to French sources, Britain has been desperately jockeying to be granted at least observer status on the new council, a request neither Bonn nor Paris have so far been willing to countenance.

In Brussels for a meeting with fellow finance ministers, the Chancellor told reporters that Britain would not be sidelined. He said the Government's Commons statement committing Britain "in principle" to monetary union represented a "turning point" which would be enough to demonstrate the Government's pro-Emu credentials to its partners.

Mr Jospin and President Chirac will be seeking to defuse British hostility to the planned Euro-Council. France understands that the council is viewed with suspicion in London. But Mr Jospin will argue that the council will be in Britain's interest if sterling is merged into the euro in due course. It would provide a forum for some political and democratic management of the euro zone, balancing the purely technocratic and monetarist deliberations of the independent European Central Bank.

French officials are convinced that the Blair government has a schizophrenic view of the euro council. While Britain remains outside the single currency, it will inevitably be suspicious of anything that resembles the politburo of a hard-core Europe, from which it is excluded.

On the other hand, if Britain joined the single currency early next century, French officials believe the Blair government would incline towards its own view: that the euro council is an essential political counterweight to the purely monetary management of the European central bank.

## How to experience complete spiritual awareness?

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## COLUMN ONE

### Remembrance poppy row enmeshes McAleese

The Irish president-elect Mary McAleese yesterday said she would not be wearing a memorial poppy at her inauguration on Armistice Day next week.

Her announcement saw the simple flower, supposed to represent the poppies in Flanders fields from the First World War, firmly entangled in the mire of Northern Ireland politics.

Mrs McAleese, who was elected as Ireland's head of state last week to succeed Mary Robinson, will be attending a Remembrance Day service on Sunday in Dublin. But she said she had decided "after long deliberation, apart from the shamrock, the president should not wear emblems or symbols of any kind". That included the poppy.

Her decision outraged many Tory MPs and Ulster Unionists. Andrew Mackay, the Tory spokesman on Northern Ireland, said "It's obscene for Mary McAleese to confuse the poppy with any sectarian issues. It's a mark of respect for the millions of people who gave their lives in both world wars, including many thousands of Irish men and women."

David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist leader, said: "If she had wanted to make a significant contribution, that was her opportunity. It is a missed opportunity."

Mrs McAleese, 46, who was born in Belfast, and has been deeply committed to the peace campaign in the North, was responding to requests to wear the poppy from the Royal British Legion and other groups.

She was advised against it by Irish ministers, including the Irish Defence Minister, Michael Smith, who said it was private matter for Mrs McAleese but he believed that she could be creating problems for the future if she wore an emblem.

By announcing her decision, however, she stepped into a row over the wearing of the poppy north of the Border, where 20 workers at the Coats Vye textile factory in Londonderry have been suspended for wearing the poppy against a company ruling.

Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, had been trying to calm tempers about the poppy and Mrs McAleese's dilemma. She said that she hoped the poppy was not going to become a "political football".

The row over the flower has reopened old wounds in Northern Ireland. Remembrance Day may be seen by some as a militaristic support for the British Army, regarded by some nationalists as an occupying army. Others remember that many from the Irish Free State volunteered for the British Army, in spite of Ireland's neutrality, in the Second World War.

More recent events cast an even darker shadow – notably the 1987 IRA bomb atrocity at Enniskillen in which 11 people lost their lives.

Lembit Opik, the Liberal Democrat spokesman on Ulster, said: "The concern about poppies is a symptom, not a cause of the differences in Northern Ireland. When such events cease to be an issue, we will know we have made progress."

— Colin Brown, Chief Political Correspondent

## PEOPLE



### The artist formerly known as Nigel ...

After five years in exile, Britain's best known violinist has relaunched, nay reinvented, himself.

Nigel Kennedy, still widely described as a "punk musician" at the age of 40, has let it be known that henceforth he wishes to be known as "Kennedy".

The artist formerly known as "Nigel" or even "NK", has vowed to ditch his first name from all future recordings, concerts and public appearances.

Happily this coincides with the launch of his new re-recording of Elgar's Violin Concerto released this week. "I have never liked the name Nigel," he explains. "But what people want to address me as in conversation is up to them."

His publicist elaborated: "He has hated being called Nigel for as long as I have known him and a month ago he rang me to say he would prefer to be called Kennedy from now on."

"Naturally it is his decision, after all it is his name, though he's a bit baffled by the interest."

Others believe the name-change has more to do with a conscious mid-life decision to shake off his old scruffy, new-age soccer-mad punky image.

He had made it plain he would now prefer people to concentrate on his musical talent rather than

his former harrow boy incarnation, typified by esoteric English and extravagant gestures like spraying his Jaguar car claret and blue in tribute to his sporting heroes, Aston Villa.

Last month, Kennedy gave his first live performance since his "retirement" in 1992.

The critics largely agreed that he remains an outstanding violinist, technically brilliant and with a gift for making audiences listen hard.

He has not yet fully eschewed the "Nigel" persona, however. He performed at the Royal Festival Hall sporting a new age haircut and a spotty waistcoat. It is partly through this "alternative" approach that Kennedy has been credited by many critics as the performer who introduced a new generation of young people to classical music. His recording of Vivaldi's *Four Seasons* has sold over 2 million copies.

His next live performance of Elgar's Violin Concerto, accompanied by the Oxford University Chamber Orchestra, will take place at the Virgin Megastore in Oxford Street, central London, on 17 November.

— Amanda Kelly



### New neighbours stumped by Boycott's arrival

Sir Geoffrey Boycott, whose gruff tones have come to symbolise Yorkshire as much as the white rose itself, is abandoning the county of his birth to go and live by the seaside in Dorset.

The former England batsman and now television commentator enjoys near-legendary status in the Ridings, where cricketing achievement is widely seen as the mark of a man's worth.

But among the retired gent-folk of Poole, his reputation counts for less. Two of his prospective neighbours asked "Who is he?" when told yesterday of the Yorkshireman's pending

arrival at his new harbourside abode. "To be perfectly honest, I don't expect people would know he was here," said another near neighbour. "You only occasionally see your neighbour, although to be truthful I don't expect I would recognise him if I saw him."

Sir Geoffrey, 57, grew up in the coal mining village of Fitzwilliam. During one of his many run-ins with the Yorkshire county cricket committee he once boasted: "I have lived in the Wakefield district all my life and I have no wish to live anywhere else."

— Ian Burrell

### Druid reunited with Excalibur

A Druid who thinks he is the reincarnation of King Arthur was yesterday reunited with his ceremonial sword Excalibur.

Arthur Pendragon's sword was confiscated seven months ago by police in Trafalgar Square. But, it was returned to him yesterday after a judge at Southwark Crown Court said he was satisfied Mr Pendragon, 43, was a genuine

Druid and that the sword was used for ceremonial and ritual purposes. Judge Stephen Robbins made his ruling after reading reports from Professor Ronald Hutton, a leading authority on Druids. He said: "Professor Hutton leaves ... no doubt that this defendant's Druid credentials are genuine. It is not in the public interest to pursue this case."

## UPDATE

### WELFARE

#### Care of elderly seen as state duty

The Government should retain a major role in financing care of the elderly, according to a new national survey.

Most people are realistic about the likelihood of needing care in old age, whether in their own home or in a residential or nursing home. The Economic and Social Research Council found. But there is a limit to their willingness to take responsibility for their own care – particularly financial responsibility.

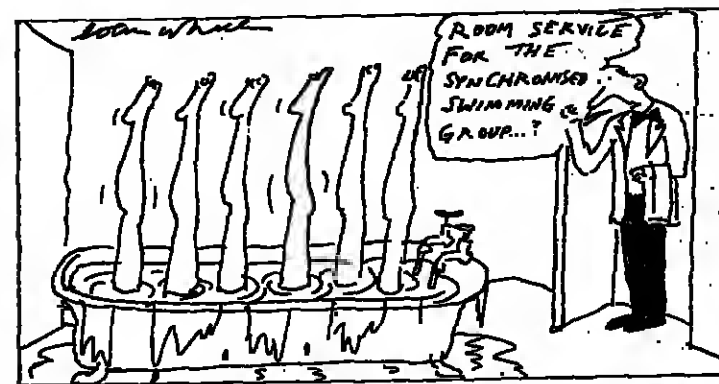
Most of the people the ESRC questioned believed that the state should pay at least the basic care costs and few were willing to use capital tied up in their home to pay for care. Private long-term care insurance schemes were considered unattractive, with only 6 per cent of the people questioned saying they would take them up. Two-thirds of those questioned said they were dissatisfied with the present means-tested system of state support, said the study, which involved almost 1,000 men and women.

A system based on partnership – in which the Government allows an individual to keep assets provided private insurers cover part of the costs of care – was a more popular option. But even here, only half were enthusiastic about this way of paying for their care.

— Glenda Cooper, Social Affairs Correspondent

### LEISURE

#### Hotels' wet and wild side



Couples snorkelling in the bath and hosing each other down with sodawater are just some of the weird and watery pleasures of hotel guests, the AA reveals today in its 1998 *Hotel Guide*.

Other aquatic anecdotes reported in the guide include a Chinese guest who asked for a goldfish to take in the bath with him to aid relaxation; a party of Japanese visitors who booked three rooms in Carmarthen, south Wales, but all used the same bath because they liked the view of the river Wye; a guest in Llangollen in Wales who flooded two floors and a banqueting area after leaving the bath running and going for a long walk; and a woman at a hotel in Ashburton, Devon, who complained that while she was bathing a dog had entered her room and run off with her knickers.

The sodawater incident involved a guest who ordered several siphons from room service and later apologised for soaking the bed and surrounding area. He explained he and his girlfriend enjoyed squirting the water at each other. The snorkelling incident came to light when staff investigating a flood discovered two guests in a bathroom wearing face masks and breathing tubes.

### ESSAY COMPETITION FOR LAW STUDENTS

The Independent is sponsoring an essay competition for law students to win a free place at the College of Law. Entrants have to write an essay under the question "What are Law Schools For?". The winner will have all tuition fees for the course paid.

Last year's winner of the College of Law/Independent competition, Abdul Hoq Mohammed, gained a training contract at Lincoln's Inn based Towers and Hamblins.

Entries, in not more than 1,500 words, should be sent to: College of Law Essay Competition, College of Law, Braboeuf Manor, St Catherine's, Guildford, Surrey, GU3 1HA. For more information contact the college marketing department on 0483 460350.

### TOURIST RATES

Australia (dollars)	2.31	Italy (lira)	2774
Austria (schillings)	19.79	Japan (yen)	203.56
Belgium (francs)	58.15	Malta (lira)	0.62
Canada (\$)	2.29	Netherlands (guilders)	3.17
Cyprus (pounds)	0.83	Norway (kroner)	11.56
Denmark (kroner)	10.79	Portugal (escudos)	286.07
France (francs)	9.43	Spain (pesetas)	237.42
Germany (marks)	2.83	Sweden (kroner)	12.37
Greece (drachme)	446.74	Switzerland (francs)	2.31
Hong Kong (\$)	12.59	Turkey (lira)	295.346
Ireland (pounds)	1.08	USA (\$)	1.64

Source: Thomas Cook  
Rates for independent purposes only

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SEX  
Life

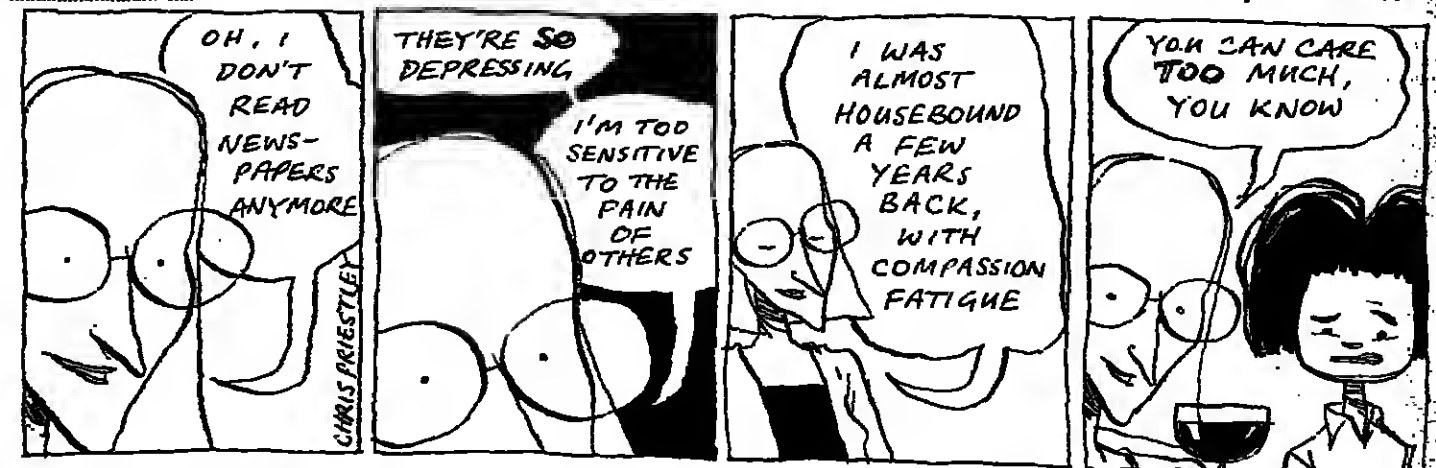
"Sorry about last night, not wanting to... I wanted to, I was just a bit tired... we can do it tonight if you like?"

EGG & MILLY

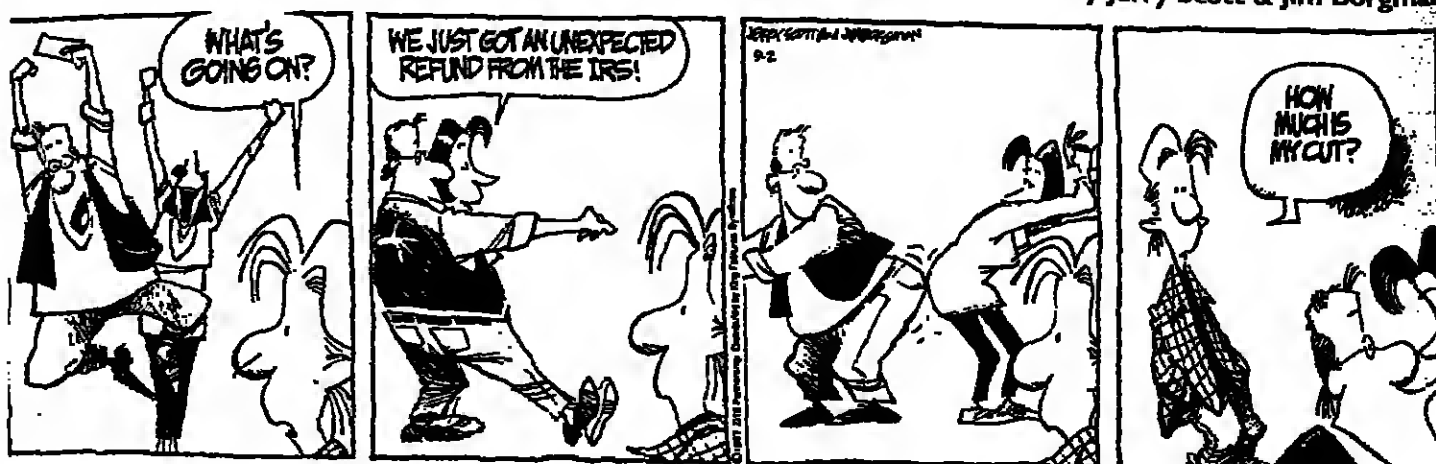
THIS series 1 now on video from all good retailers.

BBC

### 7.30 FOR 8



### ZITS





**state duty**

The initiative, which will be announced later today, comes two weeks after *The In-*

It is understood that Home Office officials have approached the five companies who have been granted licences for research on beauty and skin products and obtained an agreement not to carry out further animal experiments on finished goods. The voluntary ban will come into effect immediately and the firms are understood to have agreed to return their licences to the Home Office and have them altered.

About 2,800 animals were used last year to test cosmetics, mostly rabbits, guinea pigs, and rats. The vast bulk of animals - 2.7 million last year - are used for medical research

The move follows a public and political outcry at the disclosure that the Government had broken promises made by Tony Blair in an official Labour Party document during the General Election that cosmetic testing was to be outlawed.

Even Professor Colin Blakemore, head of Physiology at Oxford University and one of the most outspoken supporters of the benefits of animal research, told *The Independent*, that killing animals to test new

Jan Creamer, director of the National Anti-Vivisection Society, said last night: "We are happy to see the Government take some action ... but ... they have not got to the heart of the problem ... The balance of power must be changed."

## 1e

Eleveo sites on the World Wide Web have been selected as venues for the text. The court will also send it to the e-mail addresses of individual journalists. One major concern, however, was how to guard against a cyberspace prankster publishing a fake decision.



Causing a scene would normally get you swiftly if courteously ejected from the Reform Club. But no one shuffled uncomfortably in their venerable armchair or choked on their cigar when a real verbal spat erupted yesterday in that palace of

"Is it appropriate for a businessman like you to compare a competitor with Adolf Hitler?" asked Mr Shawcross.

"I don't always use that word," replied Mr Turner with a large mischievous smile. "Yes-

**"I don't respect him and I don't like him. What's happened to Britain is a real tragedy. People now know he's not a yummy yum from the Australian outback. He's a serious threat and came damn close to**

The glamorous and intrepid Ms Amanpour asked her boss what he thought about the BBC entering the 24 hour TV news business, which CNN pioneered from its base in Atlanta, Georgia. His response: 'I'm quite han-

by whoever he appoints to head a special foundation which he is setting up. "We all love nursing money," he said. "Even if you have a few quid you are happy about it. But money is only truly satisfying if you invest it to make the world a better place."

## Are British films good enough?

**PLUS:**  
Mark Owen, Lisa Stansfield, the Stranglers and Charles Lloyd

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# 5/THE WAY WE LIVE

## Why fitness centres can be bad for you

Fitness centres can be bad for your health, says a new report.

Glenda Cooper, Social Affairs Correspondent, investigates Consumers' Association claims that your pockets are not the only thing damaged by expensive fitness centres.

Leisure is big business these days as we all go for "the burn". A study by the Henley Centre think-tank predicted last year that the £1bn sports services, health, fitness and leisure club sector will grow by 60 per cent over the next five years.

But the Consumers' Association claims today that some fitness centres are not coming up to scratch for the amount of

money that we pay them. Its magazine *Which?* sent two under-cover fitness inspectors to four private clubs, four public leisure centres and two large hotels with fitness facilities for residents and local members.

The inspectors asked how much classes and membership was, noted how helpful staff were, examined the changing rooms and checked out the range and quality of equipment. Then they took part in one fitness class and a gym induction in each centre.

In their opinion the private clubs came out no better than the public ones and said that improvements could be made at all the places they visited.

Aerobic instruction was "poor" they claimed, with seven out of ten fitness classes taught in a "mechanical and impersonal manner, with little or no contact between the in-

structor and individual participants". *Which?* said that some instructors did not bother to find out whether there were newcomers to the class or correct the people who were doing exercises wrongly.

An aerobics class at the Sports Connection Leisure Club in Coventry was said to be "potentially unsafe" because the instructor paid little regard to the participants' needs. Mike Taylor, director of Sports Connection was very disappointed with what the *Which?* inspectors had said. "In my view this instructor is as safe as you can get. He is RSA qualified and teaches around the area. I really don't understand it," he said.

Instructors at Meadows Leisure Centre at Burton-on-Trent, and the Spiceball Park Sports Centre in Banbury were also said to be poor.

Mark Thomewill, Meadows-

side's leisure contracts manager, said: "We looked at the report and accepted we could improve in certain areas. We have introduced an induction scheme for beginners and an independent appraisal system for our instructors which is to be ongoing."

Mark Bremner, operations director of DC Leisure which runs Spiceball Park, said that while they welcomed any audit they had found the report "too negative".

Helen Parker, editor of *Which?*, said: "The poor quality of aerobics class teaching we found is particularly worrying. We want to see the keep-fit industry doing more to ensure that instructors have standard, thorough and recognisable qualifications." However, the magazine said that its findings should not put people off exercising, but it urged people to choose their centre carefully.



Going for the burn: But some fitness centres are not giving their customers value for money, according to a new report by *Which?* magazine. Photograph: David Rose

## Now the easy way in for tipplers in a hurry

Beaujolais nouveau tipplers in France are to test a new, self-opening cork. John Lichfield, in Paris, samples the infinitely reusable and horrendously named Kwik-Kork, which arrives in Britain next year.

Have you ever been on a picnic and left the corkscrew at home? Have you ever sprained your wrist trying to open a wine bottle with a miniature corkscrew on a pen-knife? Help is on the way.

The wine house which first popularised Beaujolais nouveau will send ripples through the world of French wine production when the 1997 version arrives two weeks today. Emile Chandesais, a major Beaujolais producer, will become the first European wine house to use Kwik-Kork, a self-opening but otherwise traditional cork (it is made out of cork) invented in Canada eight years ago.

A plastic piston passes through the cork: a plastic ring on top operates the piston and opens the bottle; it can be closed again with the same device. The Michel Picard group, which owns Emile Chandesais, intends to market 600,000 bottles this year. The marketing director, Jean-Pierre Durand,

said: "We want to test the reaction in France and make sure we have everything just right before we sell abroad. We plan to send the Kwik-Kork bottles to Britain next November."

Wine-bottles with built-in corkscrews have already been marketed in Australia and South Africa. Mr Durand says French producers have been reluctant to take up the invention until now, partly through traditionalism, partly through a fear that any self-opening wine would be associated in the public's mind with the kind of flip-top, low-rent table wine which has been available for years.

"A traditional cork ... is necessary to allow a wine to continue to mature in the bottle," Mr Durand said. "We are satisfied ... that bottles with Kwik-Korks behave just like ordinary bottles." Michel Picard hopes to use self-opening corks with other middle-ranking wines such as Côte du Rhône but Mr Durand does not imagine we will ever see a Kwik-Kork ring atop a bottle of Château Mouton-Rothschild. "The best wines sell so much on tradition that, from a marketing point of view, it would not make sense," Mr Durand sees the benefit of the smart corks mostly in the market for good, medium-priced wines: in other words, just the kind of wine you might take on a picnic while forgetting the corkscrew.

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## It's official: size is all down to your genes

Scientists have uncovered the genes which determine the size of your extremities - from your fingers to your genitalia - and others which could decide how quickly you appear to age. Charles Arthur, Science Editor, explains.

Jokes about big-footed men casting a longer shadow in bed might actually have some basis in fact. An international team at the University of Geneva in Switzerland, and the University of Michigan's Medical School has pinpointed the family of genes which determine how big your hands, feet, and even genitalia will be.

Known as the Hox genes, they seem to be the dividing line between us and our most distant aquatic ancestors, because it is legs and arms which principally distinguish us from fish.

The team found that the embryos of genetically-engineered mice which lacked particular versions of the dozen or so Hox genes developed without digits or penises. (The mice died before birth.) That suggests that the Hox genes are closely concerned



with the development of our extremities. If that is the case, then when one extremity, modulated by the Hox genes, is large, then the others should be too because their development is driven by the same gene.

But that factor also affects genitalia, for the possession of digits and external geo-

italia are the factors particularly distinguishing land-based animals from aquatic ones - suggesting that the Hox genes evolved in response to the need to move around on dry land. Writing in the science journal *Nature*, the researchers at the National Institute of Neuroscience suggest

that internal fertilisation may have developed at the same time, since the terrestrial environment makes external fertilisation almost impossible compared to an ocean-based one. That could tie the Hox genes for all those extremities together.

But while the development of those

genes lies tens of millions of years in our past, many people are now looking to science to offer hope for the future: specifically, to make them live longer, or at least help them appear to. Again, mice have had to stand in for humans. A Japanese team, also reporting in *Nature*, now reckons that

It's in the genes: The French writer, soldier and duellist, Cyrano de Bergerac's large nose could be blamed on his genes

a newly-discovered gene could play a part in how quickly one appears to age. With cosmetic companies frequently promising to "slow down the appearance of ageing" with expensive oils, the concept that such a task could be tackled by genes instead may seem surprising. But the new gene, dubbed *Klotho* (after one of the Fates, a Greek goddess who spins the thread of life), seems to be involved in a complex chemical and genetic pathway, which both regulates ageing and may influence your susceptibility to age-related diseases.

Mice with two faulty copies of the *klotho* gene grew and aged normally at first, but then aged rapidly and died of various illnesses including arteriosclerosis, osteoporosis, and emphysema, after about 60 days - one-tenth the usual lifespan of a laboratory mouse. From the experiments, it seems that the *klotho* gene is most effective as a regulator of the normal ageing process, ensuring that it does not run out of control.

## Paedophiles face playground ban

Paedophiles and sex offenders, including people convicted abroad, could be banned from schools, playgrounds and other "risk areas", under proposals announced yesterday.

Offenders subject to the new exclusion orders will be prevented from going to specified areas for a minimum of five years. Anyone who breaks the order faces up to five years in jail and/or an unlimited fine. They can also be forced to undergo treatment.

The Home Office proposals are aimed at plugging a legal loophole and follow heightened fears that dangerous paedophiles are able to loiter in areas close to children.

The police will apply to civil courts for the Community Protection Orders and will have to show that the defendant was a sex offender and currently poses a serious risk to the community. The court would have to decide whether there was sufficient evidence "on the balance of probability".

The defendants would, however, be able to challenge the order after five years.

Courts could not impose household curfews, under proposals by the Home Office consultation paper, which will seek views until the beginning of December. The order is expected to be part of the forthcoming Crime and Disorder Bill, and the measures would close a loophole in the recently introduced Sex Offenders Act which requires sex offenders released after 1 September only to register their names and addresses with the police.

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, said: "There are a number of sex offenders who did not have to register under the [Act] who remain a risk to the community."

But civil liberties groups and lawyers are concerned that the measures could lead to the harassment of innocent people.

— Jason Bennett  
Crime Correspondent

## Jail may become holding centre for asylum seekers

Plans to convert a jail into a secure holding centre for asylum seekers and foreigners trying to enter Britain are being examined by the head of the Prison Service. The move to transform a former prisoner-of-war camp in Kent comes shortly after about 800 Czech and Slovak gypsies entered the country via Dover seeking asylum.

There is growing concern about the use of normal prisons to house immigrants, who often have to wait many months, and in some cases years, for their cases to be resolved. About 500 detainees are currently housed in this way. Richard Tilt, director-general of the Prison Service, is considering converting Aldington prison into an immigration detainee holding centre, in response to recommendations made by Sir David Ramsbotham, the Chief Inspector of Prisons, in his report on the Kent jail.

Sir David suggested making Aldington, currently a jail for low-security risk inmates, a central holding centre for all immigration detainees held in normal prisons. He said Aldington, is "geographically and physically, ideally situated" for this purpose. The prison is close to the Channel tunnel terminal at Ashford and the ports of Dover and Folkestone.

— Benjamin Todd

## Duped surfers net refunds

Thousands of people who ran up huge phone bills earlier this year trying to download erotic pictures to their computers will get £1.6m in refunds from companies that repurposed their Internet connections through the former Soviet republic of Moldova. The United States Federal Trade Commission forced the payments from a number of US-based companies and individuals as part of two settlements.

Net users were told they needed a software program, provided for free, to view sex pictures at an Internet site in east Europe. But the program hijacked their computer modem; instead of dialling a local number, the modem was made to dial an international number in Moldova, costing up to \$2 per minute. Any browsing the duped surfers did after that time also went via the Moldova number - at huge cost. Roughly 38,000 people were caught by the fraud. The case came to the FTC's attention when the AT&T telephone company workers noticed an increase in calls to Moldova.

— Charles Arthur, Science Editor

## Arrested couple win payout

A couple arrested and detained by police for four hours on the way back from a wedding reception, and were later unsuccessfully prosecuted for assaulting officers, have received £18,000 compensation. West Yorkshire Police agreed to pay Roselyn and Christopher Fontaine, from Bradford, after the couple - who are black - sued for assault, false imprisonment and malicious prosecution. A police statement said compensation had been paid without any admission of liability. A statement read out in the High Court at Leeds described how the Fontaines had been stopped by police just after midnight in September 1994 while returning from a wedding. Later charges brought by police were dismissed by Bradford magistrates.

— Michael Streeter, Legal Affairs Correspondent

## Charities' rival to the lottery to be banned by Home Office

The Home Office is set to quash a plan by some of Britain's leading charities to set up a rival national lottery scheme run from public houses. The Pronto Lively lottery scheme, which is due to launch at the end of this month, has the backing of 25 charities, including Mencap, The Samaritans and ChildLine, and involves draws taking place at five-minute intervals.

Last night Lord Mancroft, the chairman of InterLotto, the company behind the plan, said the decision to block the new lottery could cost charities £100m a year. The Conservative peer attended a meeting yesterday with George Howarth, the Home Office minister, at which he said he was warned the scheme could "change the face of British pubs entirely".

— Ian Burrell

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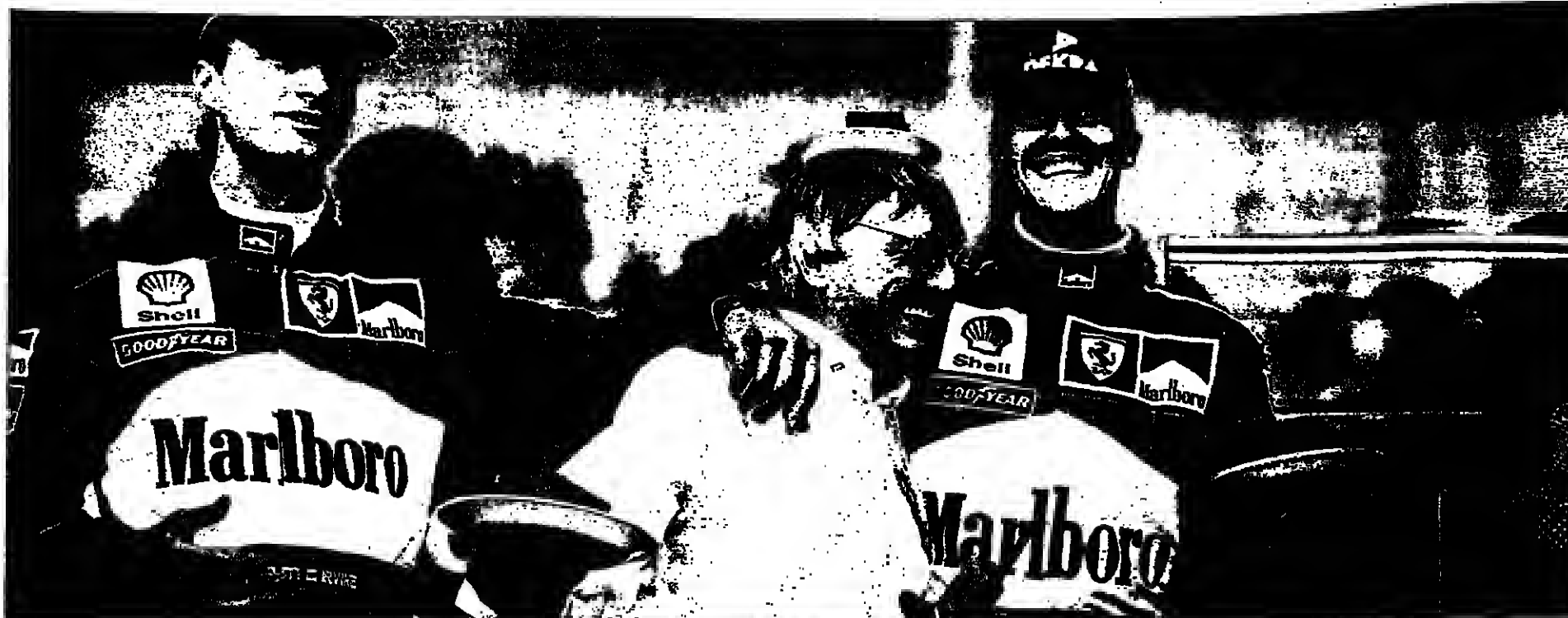


# 7/SMOKING U-TURN

THE INDEPENDENT  
THURSDAY  
NOVEMBER 1997

## How Blair's ear was bent by the king of Formula One

Formula One racing was exempted from a tobacco sponsorship ban after lobbying by a former Labour aide, it emerged last night. *Fran Abrams and Katherine Butler reveal Tony Blair met motor racing officials after representations from David Ward, an adviser to the labour leader John Smith until his death in 1994, who now works for the sport's governing body.*



Bernie Ecclestone and two stars of F1 - Michael Schumacher, left, and Eddie Irvine - at the German driver's 100th grand prix. Photograph: Allsport

One. It is not the only sport which is global."

The Government's decision to press for Formula One to be left out of a Europe-wide sponsorship and advertising ban also angered EU commissioners, who said the whole exercise might be killed off by it. Padraig Flynn, the EU's commissioner in charge of health policy, telephoned Mrs Jowell on Tuesday night to protest. "Why not snooker, why not basketball? This is nonsensical" said Barbara Nolan, commission health policy spokeswoman.

But a Downing Street spokesman last night said Mr Blair had met Mr Mosley and Mr Ecclestone on 16 October. Motor racing provided 50,000 high-skilled and 150,000 part-time jobs and had an export value of £900m, he added.

"If we didn't table amendments to the directive we would be in a position where Formula One, being a global sport, would clearly go to Eastern Europe or the Far East and would be beamed back into Britain with more advertising," he said.

The Prime Minister had "numerous" meetings with leading Formula One officials, Mr Ward said last night. They attended a Downing Street reception as well as meeting Tessa Jowell, the Secretary of State for Health, and Tony Banks, the sports minister.

Some other sports which received less favourable treatment said that although they corresponded with ministers about the ban, they only met officials.

Mr Ward left the Labour Party to work as a consultant in Brussels after Mr Smith's death and now works exclusively for the Federation Internationale

de l'Automobile, which among other things acts as a governing body for motor sport. He said he did not believe he received special treatment, though he added that the Government's decision came in response to a proposal from FIA, of which he is European director general.

"Of course it is helpful that

I know a lot of the individuals, but ... the Government said when they announced this that they wanted to consult with all the relevant parties. We have simply taken up the offer. I am sure a lot of other sporting bodies have done that. I don't think there has been any special favour to me," he said.

The president of the FIA,

Max Mosley, has met Mr Blair and so has Bernie Ecclestone, founder of the Formula One Constructors' Association.

A proposal made to ministers last month by the FIA argued that a European ban on tobacco sponsorship would simply drive Formula One events to the Far East - an argument which has been accepted by

ministers. It also adds that the body would be happy to help cut tobacco sponsorship of Formula One through a voluntary scheme.

Mr Ward pointed out that neither he nor his organisation received any money from tobacco sponsorship, although Formula One events are backed by it.

Last night representatives of other sports expressed anger at the contrast between their treatment and that of Formula One. Robert Holmes, spokesman for the British Darts Organisation, said he believed the motor sport had received preferential treatment. "At the last meeting I attended about this the FIA were not

represented. The other affected sports were looking to make a united stance on this but we were told they were having their own meeting," he said.

John Redwood, the Conservatives' Trade and Industry spokesman, said: "The Labour government has to explain to other sports why they weren't treated similarly to Formula

### Other sports call for exemption too

There was little attempt by other sporting bodies to disguise their contempt for what they saw as the preferential treatment given to Formula One racing by Tony Blair and his ministers. The general reaction was: If they can have exemption from a sponsorship ban, why can't we?

Sporting organisations dependent on tobacco sponsorship said they have for years offered successful voluntary agreements on the promotion of smoking, and will now be pressing ministers to retain the status quo.

Robert Holmes, spokesman for the British Darts Organisation, whose sport depends on a £1.5m deal over four years for the Embassy World Professional Darts Championship and the Embassy Gold Cup, accused Downing Street of "snobbery" in giving concessions to the Formula One racing lobby. "It's particularly disappointing that a Labour government of all governments should strangle the life out of working-class sports," he said.

Mr Holmes denied suggestions from Downing Street that other sports - including darts - had indicated they could find alternative sponsorship.

— Michael Streeter, Legal Affairs Editor

### Health lobby more sorry than angry

The anti-smoking lobby greeted news of the change in government policy more with sorrow than outright anger yesterday.

They recognised that ministers had faced a difficult choice, and concentrated much of their fire on the tactics of the motor racing industry. Their comments were also clearly intended to shore up ministers against demands from other lobby groups from within sport and the tobacco industry.

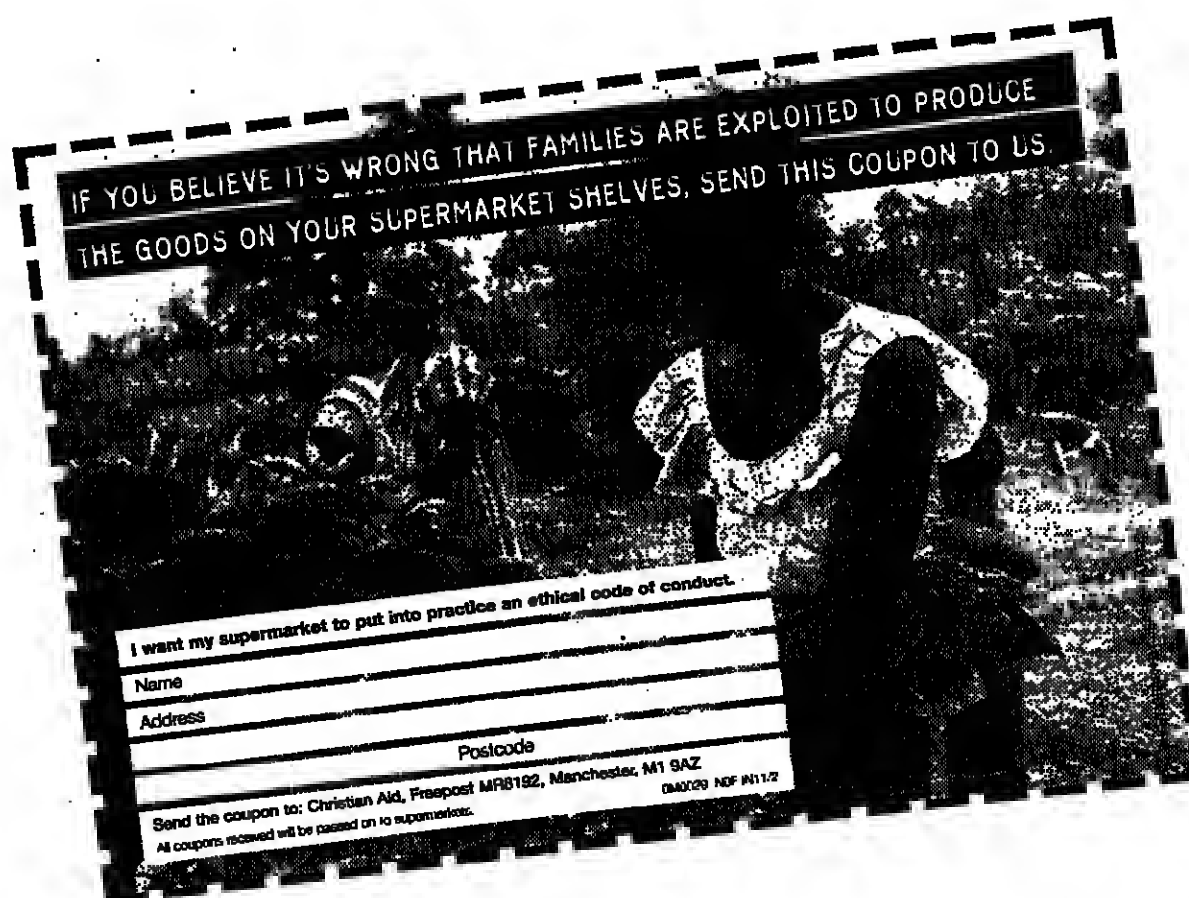
Dr Sandy Macara, chairman of the British Medical Association, said there had been "blackmail" from the Formula One lobby. "Clearly an unholy alliance of the tobacco manufacturers and the Formula One organisers has put the Government in an impossible position."

The director of the anti-smoking campaign group Ash, Clive Bates, said he believed the tobacco industry and F1 had "heavied the Government by threatening to take events away from Europe".

The disappointment was echoed by Stephen Thornton, chief executive designate of the NHS Confederation. Health authorities, he said, were looking for a lead from the Government to help reduce smoking-related diseases.

— Michael Streeter

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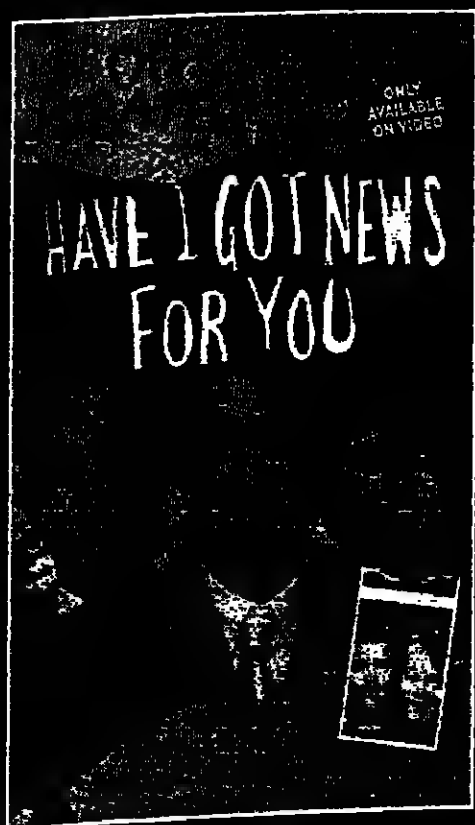
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Available in-store.

**PC HELP LINE**  
7 DAYS A WEEK  
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Calls cost 50p per minute.

**SAME DAY SERVICE**  
For most large items if you phone before 10am Monday to Friday and live within 10 miles of a Currys store.

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**WATCH OUT FOR OUR VOUCHER SPECIALS!**  
Look out for the special voucher savings on selected products throughout this advertisement. Simply take this advert to any Currys store to claim your discount. One voucher saving per purchase. Some voucher offers are an alternative to existing trade-in offers. Not for use with other offers. Brands and only. Discount using Code 4 (Direct Office offer). HURRY! These voucher prices valid only until Wednesday 12th November 1997.

**APR 20.5%**  
For loan values £1000 and over minimum deposit is 10%. Subject to status when you open a Currys Premier Advantage Account. Written credit questions available on request from Dept FDM/K. Maylands Avenue, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP2 7TG. (Applicants must be 18 or over, 21 in Northern Ireland).

**EXAMPLE OF INTEREST FREE OPTION ON SELECTED PRODUCTS**  
**HOW IT WORKS**  
Account is interest free if repaid in full before (or with) 6th, 9th, 10th, 12th or 18th monthly repayment according to the period stated with the product. See our "How it Works" showcard in-store for details. Example based on Cash Price of £499.99.

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# 9/MEDIA NEWS

THE INDEPENDENT  
THURSDAY  
6 NOVEMBER 1997

It's big, expensive  
and coming soon to  
a cinema near you

Imax, the biggest of big-screen cinema formats, is about to arrive in Britain's museums and municipalities.

Paul McCann asks why so many are planned and whether they are simply a lottery-funded gimmick or the cutting edge of entertainment.

After years as a rather hokey novelty for parents to take their children to on wet Yorkshire afternoons, Britain has gone mad for the Imax cinema screen. Until now there has been only one of the huge-format screens in the country, but there are plans to open 10 in the next three years.

This week, builders moved on to a site in the middle of a roundabout at Waterloo, in south London, where they will construct Europe's largest cinema screen, a seven-storey Imax for the British Film Institute. And next month, the Trocadero centre, in central London, will open its new Imax - the first since the Museum of Film and Photography in Bradford opened its screen, 14 years ago.

But London's Imax mania does not stop there. The Science Museum is to build an Imax that will open in 2000 as part of its Wellcome Wing, and Warner Brothers plans an Imax as part of its multi-screen development inside the former Battersea power station.

Outside London, the trend

for big screens is spreading like a rash. Bristol, Bournemouth, Birmingham, Belfast, Manchester and Dublin will all have Imax screens by the millennium.

This is a remarkable turnaround for a film format which is 25 years old and has never really taken off in Hollywood. The technology is based on a film frame that is 10 times bigger than a conventional 35mm frame. This gives images a much higher resolution and allows the film to be shown on screens so big that they spread outside the audience's field of vision.

"There has been a complete dearth of screens and now there is an explosion," says a delighted Alison Roden of Euromax, the format's trade body. "It is being driven by two things. In America there has been a surge of interest as multiplex cinema operators try to give themselves a unique selling point. They can either have better popcorn, or they can have an Imax."

"And then the National Lottery has had a huge part to play, because of the amount of money earmarked for capital projects."

But the suspicion shared by some that Imax screens are the ice-skating rinks and ten-pin bowling alleys of the Nineties: unimaginative municipal regeneration schemes that are destined to be white elephants. Ms Roden, naturally, disagrees: "The growth is not coming from institutions but from commercial companies. More films are being made every year and people are making money from Imax films."



Jon Snow: To viewers he combines 'gravitas and a whiff of the anti-establishment' Photograph: PA

## Channel 4 savours the viewers' feeling for Snow

Channel 4 plans to revolutionise its newsroom, but wants to hold on to what research identifies as its main asset - Jon Snow.

Paul McCann, Media Correspondent, asks why Britain's most upmarket newsreader is so crucial to the channel.

Staff at ITN's Channel 4 News were sanguine yesterday over the impending departure of their editor, Sarah Nathan, and plans to let competing producers pitch for the programme.

The only person who is guaranteed a job with the news programme when ITN's contract ends in June 1999 is the show's anchor of the past eight years, Jon Snow.

"No one is pretending it is the happiest day in our careers," said one source at the programme yesterday. "I for one have been examining my contract. Either I'm out and we're all out, or I'll be doing something pretty different here in the future."

But other reporters maintained that Channel 4 had put them through periods of doubt before. "This time it looks more serious, that's why Sarah's gone - but really, who else can do news if not ITN?" said one reporter.

While ITN believes a new editor is needed to try to hold on to the contract, Channel 4 was at pains to emphasise that Snow, 50, will stay with the award-winning show: "We are all fans of Jon here," said a Channel 4 insider. "He is part of the future of Channel 4 News and anyone who comes forward with new ideas will have to include him."

Channel 4 has internal focus group research which shows that Snow, the cousin of *Tomorrow's World* presenter Peter Snow, is one of channel's best-loved names. Viewers believe Snow combines "gravitas and authority" while carrying a "whiff of the anti-establishment" about him, according to viewers.

"Viewers also believe that Snow is a reporter himself, getting his own stories, he's not just a pretty face," says the Channel 4 insider. And Snow became the story himself in September, when Buckingham Palace went out of its way to rubbish his story that The Queen had originally opposed any kind of state funeral for Diana, Princess of Wales.

Indeed, Snow's anti-establishment tendencies are not confined to his lurid ties. He was sent down from Liverpool University for his anti-apartheid activities and has set up and run a day centre for homeless people. In the Eighties he was carpeted by ITN bosses for signing a petition in support of the striking miners. But Channel 4 feels his presence can help to maintain continuity in what is likely to be a revolutionary shake-up of its news output.

Beyond concerns about the presentation of news, the channel's chief executive, Michael Jackson, is also interested in new views on the philosophy the news programme should have, and the kind of agenda it should follow.

He is asking producers to suggest a new template for the show, to dispense with the structured "package" of filmed report followed by interview and he also wants to see how far "off the beaten track" Channel 4 should go with its own stories.

However, sources at Channel 4 dismissed out of hand speculation that the planned changes are related to Channel 5 moving its news to 7pm.

Mr Jackson is being encouraged to look at more than just the form of the programme, but also its structure and organisation.

"The idea of one news provider for the channel is questionable," said Bernard Clark, head of Clark Productions, which makes *Dispatches*. "There are a thousand independent producers in the UK, many of them run by former editors of *Newsnight* or *Panorama*, and they could all feed stories to one central production crew. It's the kind of distinctive and innovative programming Michael Jackson says he wants."

## The don't want you

Of course you're pleased as punch to have got your mortgage organised. Now you can go ahead and buy the flat or house you want. Your mind is full of things like removals, getting the telephone and electricity laid on for when you arrive and remembering not to pack the kettle and tea bags at the bottom of a case.

### THE MORTGAGE MATTER OF PROTECTION

You know you have to take out life cover to pay off your mortgage should you die. Everyone does. After everything you've been through over the last few weeks sorting this out is probably not the first thing on your mind. Who would blame you for just taking out the life cover offered to you by your mortgage lender?

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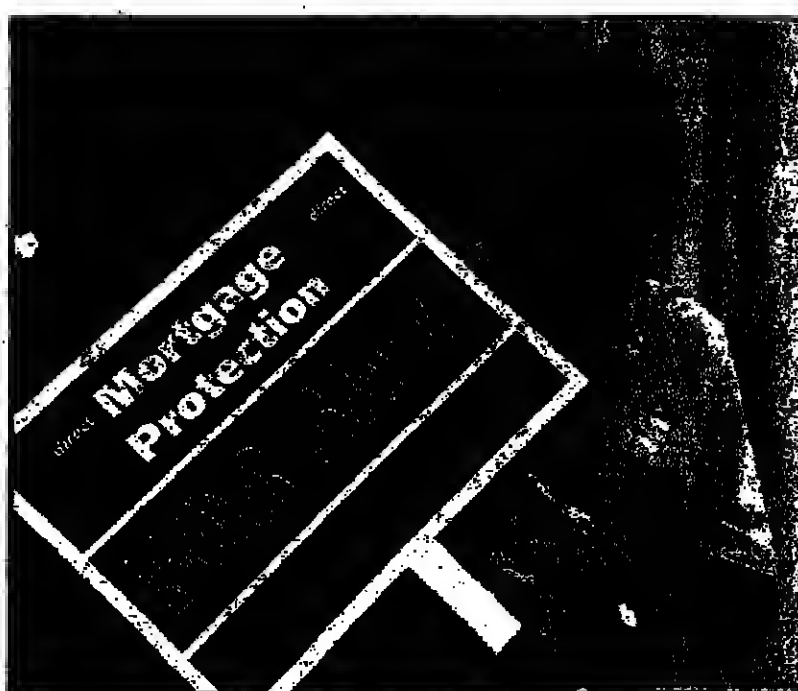
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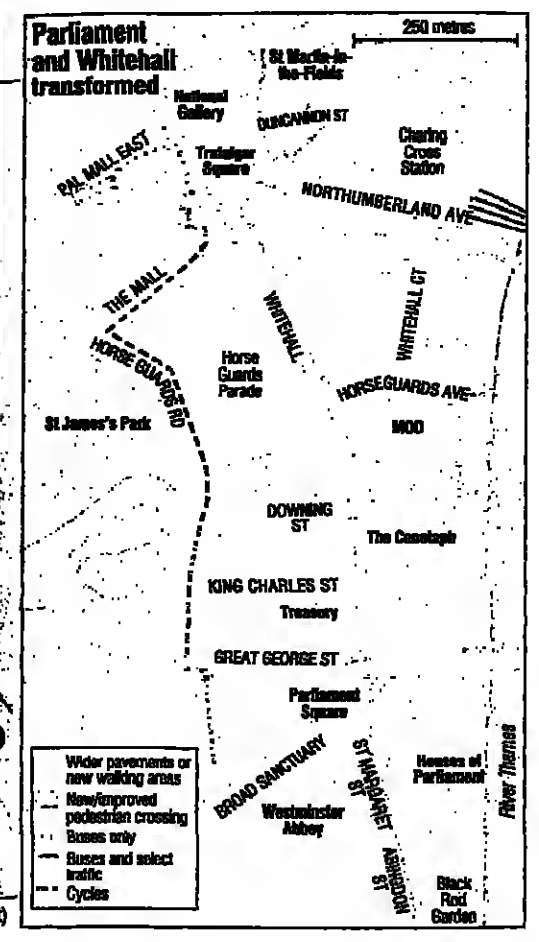
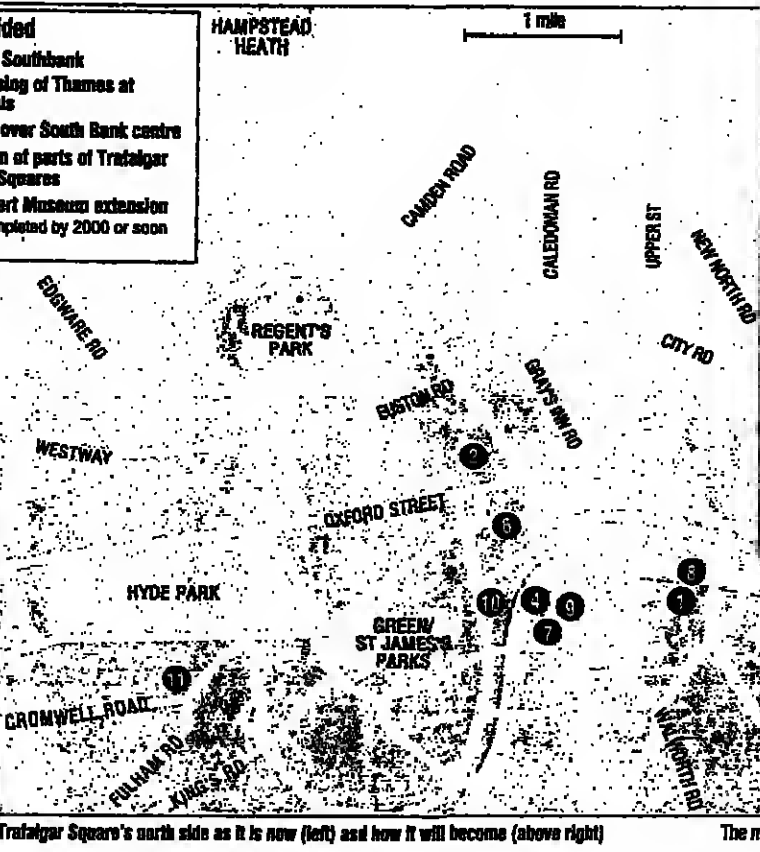
صكرا من الامل

# 11/ENVIRONMENT NEWS

THE INDEPENDENT  
THURSDAY  
6 NOVEMBER 1997

## A NEW CAPITAL FOR THE MILLENNIUM

- | Certain                                    | Yet to be decided   |
|--|---|
| 1 Tate Gallery at Bankside Power Station   | 7 Ferris Wheel on Southbank                                       |
| 2 Great Court of British Museum—glass roof | 8 Pedestrian crossing of Thames at Bankside/S1 Pools              |
| 3 New Millennium Experience dome           | 9 Giant glass roof over South Bank centre                         |
| 4 New Hungerford pedestrian bridge         | 10 Pedestrianisation of parts of Trafalgar and Parliament Squares |
| 5 Wembley Stadium redevelopment            | 11 Victoria and Albert Museum extension                           |
| 6 Rebuilding Covent Garden Opera House     |   |
- These are among the biggest public projects planned for the capital, to be completed by 2000 or soon after. All but the Ferris Wheel rely on National Lottery money.



## A vision of the heart of London without traffic

Traffic is to be restricted in London's two greatest squares, transforming them for the benefit of pedestrians.

It is one of the least expensive of the capital's millennium projects. It could also be the most lasting, says Nicholas Schoon, Environment Correspondent.

The Government yesterday gave backing in plans to curb traffic and boost walking in the most visited and most famous part of London — Trafalgar and Parli-

ment Squares and Whitehall. Members of the public are being asked to give their views by the end of January, then a final plan will be drawn up and an application for National Lottery funding made.

Yesterday, Lord Rothschild, chairman of the Heritage Lottery Fund, said he would be delighted to help fund the project which will cost between £20m and £40m. Work could begin before 2000.

With the scheme having won such enthusiastic support from its inception under the previous government, it seems certain to go ahead in some form. But there are two versions or strategies, one more radical, awkward and expensive than the other,

and there are strong pressures to take the easier option.

"It's the most exciting project I've seen for a while," said John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, yesterday. It would "turn our squares back to the people and away from being roundabouts".

Under both strategies, the busy road dividing Trafalgar Square from the National Gallery would be closed to all traffic and turned into part of the square. So would the road on the southern side of Parliament Square, which cuts it off from Westminster Abbey.

Under the more radical Strategy 2, two more sides of Trafalgar Square would be closed to traffic, apart from buses and cycles. Furthermore, the busy road running past the Houses of Parliament, which carries all the traffic running alongside the Thames' north bank, would also be shut to traffic, apart from buses, taxis, cycles and vehicles driving to Parliament itself.

A team of planners, commissioned by the Government and Westminster City Council and headed by the architect Sir Norman Foster, made a detailed study of the area which covers about half a square mile. They questioned thousands of drivers and pedestrians, and even discreetly trailed tourists struggling to walk through the area and cross busy roads. The current arrangements "treat pedestrians like cattle", said Sir Norman.

The planners have come up with a mass of further changes for the area, including new or improved pedestrian crossings, extra bus lanes, widened pavements, and a new cycle route along St James's Park. They want many car parking spaces, mostly used by civil servants, to be removed, with their place taken by open terraces and pavement cafés. And they call for the public to be allowed to walk through some of the impressive open spaces surrounded by government buildings and currently closed off, including a great circle hidden within the Treasury.

The aims are to make walking safer and easier, and to stop

the view and atmosphere of famous buildings being destroyed by heavy traffic. Parliament Square is a Unesco World Heritage Site, along with such monuments as the Taj Mahal, the Great Pyramids and Stonehenge.

The less radical Strategy 1 would increase congestion in central London slightly. Bus journey times across central London should be unaffected however because, while buses will be slowed down by the heavier traffic away from the squares, they will speed up near to and between them.

Strategy 2 would cause more congestion, spreading into surrounding London boroughs. Both Westminster City Council and London Transport told a

press conference yesterday that they had major reservations about the second option. But they pointed out that if the Government took wider measures to reduce traffic in central London, then it could work.

Sir Norman Foster said his team had found that nine in five of the cars passing through the two squares and Whitehall had no need to be there. "They could be using the ring roads round London, but they're taking a short cut," he said.

Michael Gwilliam, director of the Civic Trust, the urban regeneration pressure group, said: "The Government must back Strategy 2, and not shilly-shally... If we can't curb traffic in the heart of London, with all its

public transport, then where can we?"

The project, entitled World Squares for All, will take its place among several other public projects for London funded largely by National Lottery money, from the Millennium Experience Dome in the east to the complete rebuilding of Wembley Stadium in the west. Along with major new public transport systems, such as the Jubilee Line Tube extension, these structures will transform the capital.

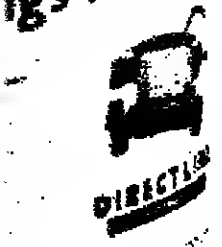
People can see the plans and submit their views at an exhibition in the Royal United Services Institute, next to the Banqueting House in Whitehall, today, tomorrow and on Saturday.

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## Killers hack their way out of prison

About 150 police wearing flak-jackets hunted late yesterday for five escaped prisoners, including three murderers serving life sentences and described as the most dangerous people in Australia.

"We consider these five escapees to be the most dangerous and desperate people on the streets of Australia at the moment and police are absolutely petrified and terrified as to what they may do to remain at large," a police media spokesman, Brian Swift, told a news conference.

The prisoners, said by police to be armed, used diamond-encrusted wire to break out of Brisbane's maximum-security Sir David Longland jail in the early hours of yesterday.

Police used helicopters after possible sightings in Brisbane's central business district and had earlier warned people in the city's outer suburbs to lock their houses and cars.

Using diamond-encrusted "angel wire" smuggled into the jail, the prisoners cut through the bars of their cells, then used their bed sheets to winch open the bars, said prison officials.

The prisoners then used cell chairs to scale a fence crowned with two rolls of razor wire.

After cutting through three more security fences, the prisoners reached the jail's perimeter fence and were thrown bolt-cutters by two people outside the jail.

The accomplices, armed with a high-powered rifle, began shooting at a guard who was chasing the prisoners as the jail's alarm began to sound.

A volley of 10 to 12 shots was fired, several piercing an armoured patrol van which was patrolling the jail.

"When the patrol vehicle got to within 70 metres (230 feet) of the perimeter it was fired upon and both of its batteries were destroyed," said the Corrective Services Commission spokesman, Stan Macdonald.

One bullet pierced the unarmoured roof of the van but the two officers inside were not hit.

The prisoners and two accomplices then ran down a road to a waiting car and sped off. A police car gave chase, but pulled back when fired on.

The Queensland Police Minister, Russell Cooper, has ordered all prisoners to be locked in their cells pending a report on the massive security breach.

"This is the first time we have had a concerted external assault on a perimeter in such a ruthless and cold, calculated way," said Mr Macdonald.

One of the prisoners, Brendan Abbott, is nicknamed the "Post Card Bandit" for sending police taunting holiday picture postcards of himself holding bags of money while on the run.

Abbott, 35, was serving a 12-year term for bank robberies. The other prisoners are Jason Nixon, 27, serving life for murder, Oliver Alincic, 32, serving life for murder, Andrew Jeffrey, 20, serving life for murder and Peter Sterling, 31, serving 13 years and seven months for deprivation of liberty.

Reuters - Brisbane



Under a cloud: A motorcyclist and passenger ducking beneath a fallen electricity pylon after tropical storm Linda hit the Kui Buri district, 143 miles south-west of Bangkok, in Thailand this week  
Photograph: AP

## Deadline for volcano isle

The new British governor of Montserrat gave islanders in four threatened towns until this evening to evacuate their homes, warning of the biggest eruption yet. Anthony Abbott said he was determined it "should not be allowed to claim another life". Nineteen died in an eruption earlier this year.

The government has said it will fine anybody left in the danger zone after the deadline but some of the 100 residents say they are determined to stay, whatever happens. Barely a third of the 11,000 inhabitants of Montserrat remain on the island, following the first eruption in 1995.

Steve Crawshaw

## UN, Iraq talk on arms team

Iraq and the UN held talks on the dispute over Baghdad's order barring Americans from arms inspection teams in Iraq, and a UN envoy described the atmosphere as "very nice".

The official Iraqi news agency INA said a second round of discussions had begun but gave no further details.

Reuters, Baghdad

## Albright sees deal on keeping US troops Bosnia

Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, said yesterday that "a consensus is developing" between the administration and Congress that there should be some form of United States military presence in Bosnia once the mandate of the Nato-led commitment expires next June.

Ms Albright said that her conclusion was based on a meeting on Tuesday involving President Bill Clinton and a large group of law-makers.

Speaking to reporters during a photo session with Klaus

Kinkel, the German Foreign Minister, Ms Albright said Mr Clinton had not made a decision on the issue. But she said there is a "clear consensus" for carrying out the terms of the Dayton peace accord.

She added that there was agreement also that the Europeans maintain some kind of military or police functions once the Nato mandate expires on 30 June.

The law-makers said, after a two-hour meeting at the White House, that Mr Clinton ap-

peared inclined to extend the US commitment in Bosnia in a yet-to-be defined fashion.

Meeting with about 40 members of the House and Senate late on Tuesday, the President and the Defense Secretary, William Cohen, heard differing views about approaches toward Bosnia.

"But with respect to the importance of the US stakes and the stability in the region, there was a general consensus," Ann Luzaatto, a White House spokeswoman, said.

While the Republican-led

Congress has taken a sceptical view of keeping US troops in Bosnia, a senior Republican senator, John Warner of Virginia, offered strong support for the President.

"It's very clear if the United States pulls out, these unfortunate people will be back at each others' throats again, and we will have lost close to \$8bn [£5bn] of US taxpayers' money," Mr Warner said as he left the White House. "I've been coming here 19 years to these meetings and there was not really one

voice of any dissent," he said. "It was constructive: 'You are the commander in chief, we're going to back you, but here are our ideas'."

Tom Daschle, Senate minority leader, immediately seconded Mr Warner's remarks. "Republicans and Democrats alike have indicated they want to work with the President to construct a strategy that will take us beyond June," he said.

"...I think we all recognise the importance of international involvement."

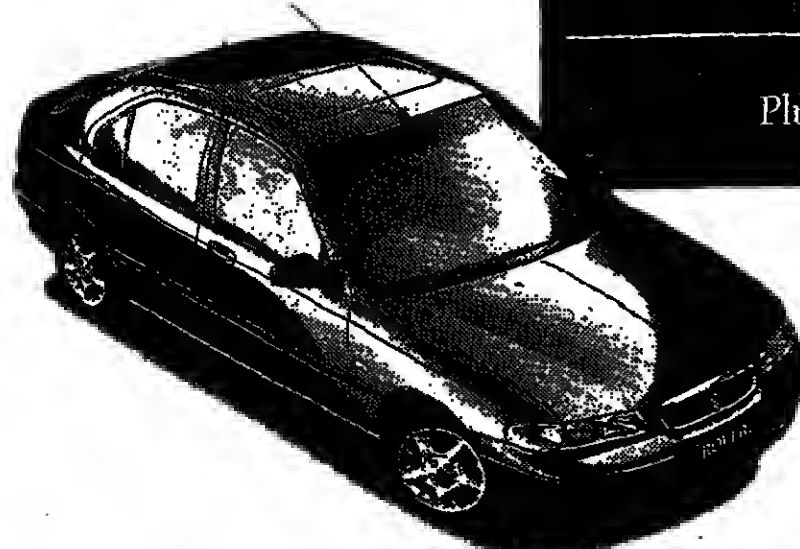
## Watch that space

A report of a previously unknown gamma-ray halo around the Milky Way has puzzled and excited scientists. The finding by Nasa's Compton observatory, a satellite that carries a gamma-ray telescope, was presented at a meeting of the American Astronomical Society. "There is nothing out there that should obviously be making gamma rays," said Dave Dixon, a researcher. "Some high-energy process is occurring out there."

AP, Estes Park, Colorado

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volcano isle

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on arms tear

Watch that  
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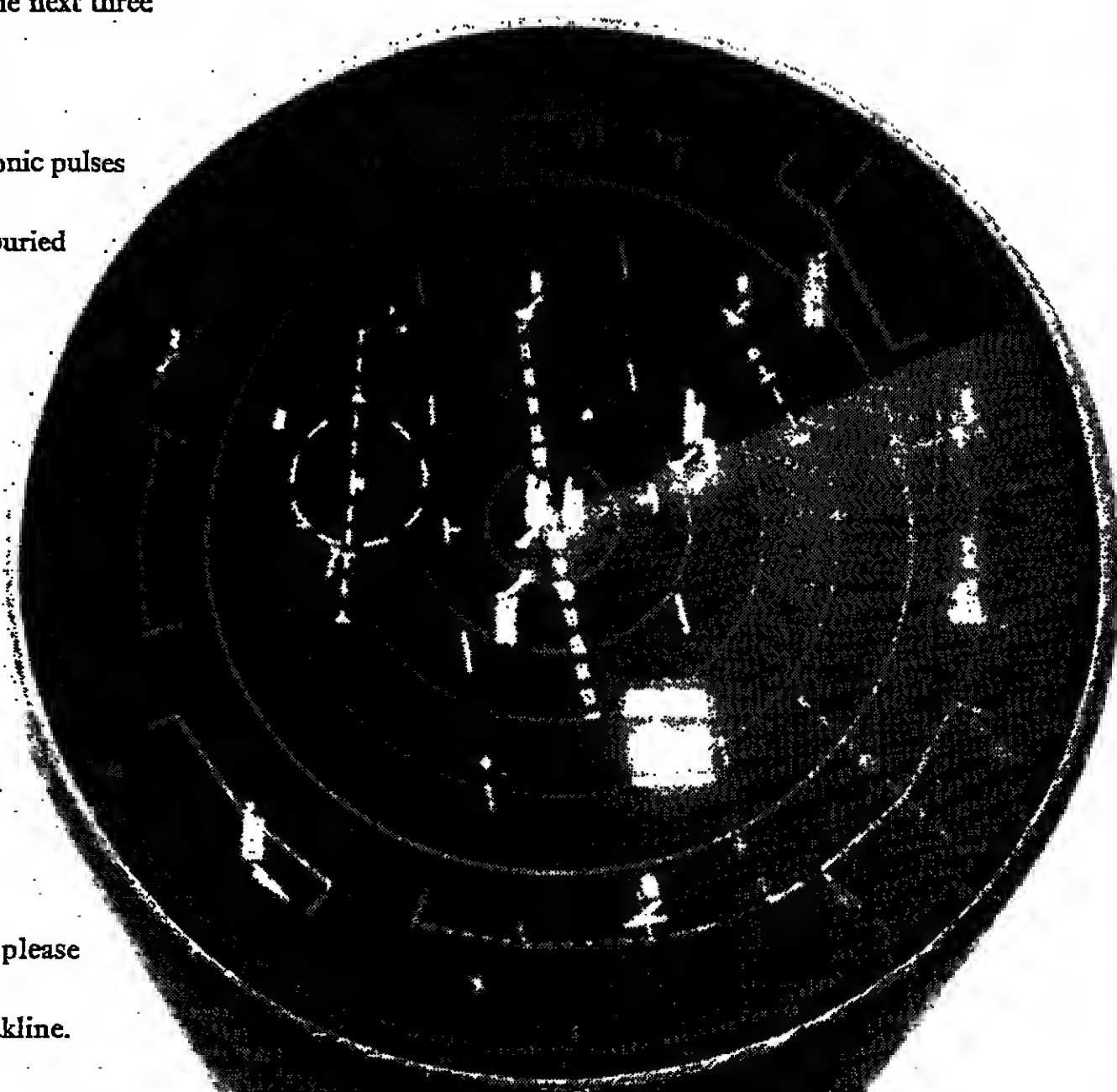
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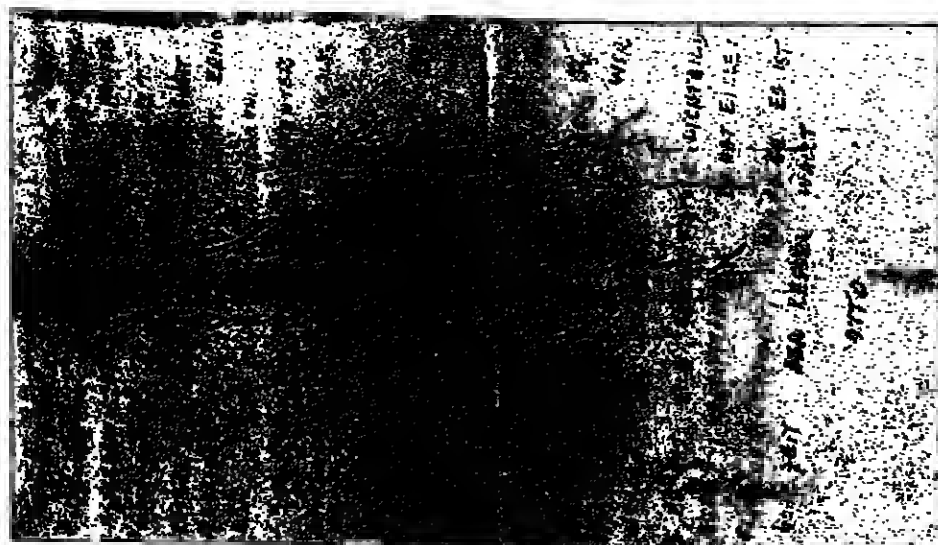


## How a love letter told story of the murder of a nation

A seemingly innocuous postcard sent by a woman in Cracow to Romania in 1943 contains a secret message written in invisible ink describing terrible conditions in a concentration camp. Patrick Cockburn in Jerusalem writes about who might have sent the message and why.

Even at first glance the postcard carries with it a sense of menace. There is the postage stamp of the German administration in Poland with the eagle and swastika. It, in turn, bears a stamp commemorating Nazi party day in August 1943. It is addressed to a Jew in Bucharest and there, on the left hand side of the card, is the heavy black stamp of the Romanian censor.

The visible message is innocuous enough. It is from Lola Bergman in Krakow, dated 20 August 1943, who writes in black ink in German: "My darling, I remember you with love. Lola." It is sent to Jacob Rosenblum in the Romanian capital. The only slight surprise is that at the height of the Second World War, when the slaughter of European Jews by the Nazis was under way, that



Visible message reads: "My darling, I remember you with love. Lola. 20 August 1943. Krakow." The message written in invisible ink: "DEATH CAMP, THE REST DECEIT, FROM THE NIGHT OF THE WITCH-HUNT: HUNGER, STARVATION, DOG FOOD OAT PORRIDGE, A DOG'S LIFE, AN EPIDEMIC, TORTURE TORTURE CHAMBER, DEGRADATION, DISRESPECT VIO-

lence, incitement, terror, fright killing by gas, upper court (or) GALLIOWS, MURDER, INCINERATOR, AGONISING HELL, CHILDREN OF FOUR AND UNDER, A BAND OF THIEVES COLD A DECLARATION CRYING TO THE HEAVENS THE NEWSPAPER ARRIVED I HEARD IT FROM HIM THE HEAT AFFECTED HIM A LOT THE WOUND HAS HEALED, I WAS VERY

speaking as if the intended reader would know those involved, the writer says somebody's "wound has healed. I was very afraid of his illness." The rest of the message gives the impression of resistance activity. The letter is signed "Otto". It is a unique document, given to the International Centre of Holocaust Studies at Yad Vashem, the Holocaust memo-

rial in Jerusalem, by the daughter of Theodore Feldman, who obtained it 20 years ago in Bucharest. Mr Feldman, a Hungarian Jew who lived in Romania before emigrating to Israel, survived Theresienstadt, a forced-labour camp for Jews in Czechoslovakia which the Nazis designed as a "show concentration camp" which foreign visitors could visit, to counter

atrocity stories. For two months Saul Greenstein, an activist at Yad Vashem, has pored over the documents, trying to find evidence for the existence of Lola Bergman, Jacob Rosenblum and "Otto".

Mr Greenstein did find a Lola Bergman of Krakow, a Polish Jew, mentioned on an ageing card of the International Red Cross Tracing Service. Born in 1906 she was deported to Piaszow camp, near Krakow, in 1943, then to Auschwitz and finally to Belsen. She survived, but in the turmoil at the end of the war she disappeared. The same Red Cross card shows that somebody, a friend or a relative, looked for her in 1949, but did not find her. It is more likely that the postcard refers to Piaszow, to which most Krakow

Jews had been sent in 1943, then Auschwitz. The identity of Otto, the ostensible author of the message, is equally elusive, even supposing he used his real first name. Mr Greenstein, assisted by Vagi Zoldan, who is writing his PhD on Adolf Eichmann, believes he might be Otto Haas, an Austrian social democrat and opponent of the Nazis who belonged to a resistance organisation based in Vienna. Haas was arrested in 1942 and executed in Berlin in 1944. He was therefore in a position to know what was happening in the camps. There are two other pieces of evidence: his handwriting, of which Mr Greenstein has several examples, is similar to that on the postcard written in invisible ink. Secondly, the Haas organisation commonly placed names and places at the end of a message - on all other cards they are at the beginning - to indicate a hidden text.

Mr Greenstein says there is one simple pointer indicating that Lola Bergman knew her letter was to carry a second, secret text. Her message is very short. All other such cards have been examined and crammed with information about the flight and survival of family and friends. Lola's prosaic love letter, however, left plenty of space for Otto to tell of terrible experiences and crimes.

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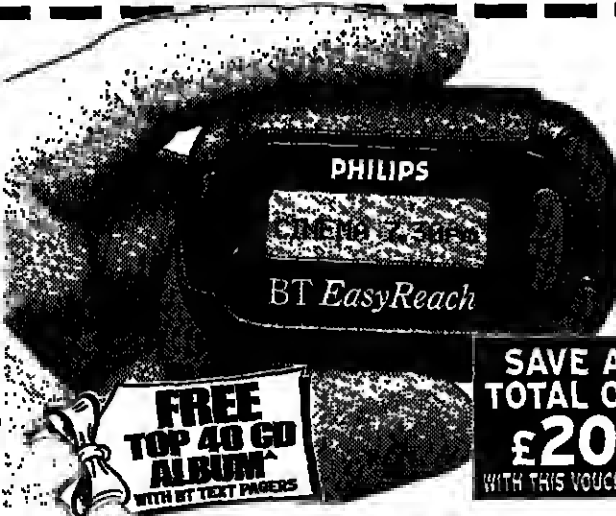
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## Victory of a sort for woman enslaved in Auschwitz

A Jewish woman forced to work in an Auschwitz munitions factory during the war finally won partial compensation yesterday from the German government. The Bonn court's verdict could trigger an avalanche of similar claims by thousands of former Nazi slaves, reports Imre Karacs.

Fifty-two years after liberation from the world's most notorious death-camp, and a fleeting five years after submitting her legal claim, Rymka Merin is to receive the reward of her labours.

By the decision of a German court, Germany owes the Israeli woman DM15,000 (£5,350) plus interest for five years. It may not seem much for assembling grenades for the Wehrmacht 12 hours every day for three years, nor does it compensate for the beatings, degradation and hunger, but a principle has been established: even slaves are entitled to some pay.

Mrs Merin was one of 22 women who had been suing the German government for five years. The court ruled yesterday that the other 21, two of whom

died during the hearing, were not entitled to a single pfennig. They received compensation in the past for the suffering they endured and merited no more remuneration.

The women had been "employed" by the German company Union, which went into liquidation in 1994. Union provided board and lodging - the familiar kind in Auschwitz, including one bowl of watery soup a day. One plaintiff told the court they were woken at 3am every day and marched for two hours to the factory.

The "employees" received no payment but the SS was paid a daily "hire charge". The German state had, therefore, benefited financially from this arrangement, said the defence. Establishing gain and responsibility has vexed similar claims in the past. German companies used 12 million slaves during the war, mostly Jews, concentration-camp inmates and citizens of occupied countries. Most perished in the factories, but there are a few survivors.

Some of the companies that grew rich on their tolls, such as Krupp, Siemens and Volkswagen, made voluntary payments to the victims but survivors' groups say they tended to be derisory. Until yesterday's verdict, no one had sued successfully for compensation.

The German government, on the other hand, has paid DM100bn since the war to groups representing Holocaust survivors. Jews in the US, Western Europe and Israel have collected one-off payments and pensions. East European Jews missed out, with Communists, homosexuals, Gypsies and other minorities.

Mrs Merin had not been paid because she only emigrated from Poland to Israel in 1969, by which time compensation for Israelis had been settled.

"Many people are still waiting," said judge Heinz Sauerberger as he read out yesterday's verdict. Among these are an estimated 30,000 former Nazi slaves who have been banging on closed doors all these years. "Basically, some people will have a right to compensation now," said the women's representative, Baron Klaus von Munchhausen. "I imagine some of them would stand a good chance." But the baron, who has twice been sacked from the civil service for helping enemies of the German state, was outraged by the decision to deny the other women. "All foreign slave-labourers have a right to remuneration for wages, and we don't agree that the court can exclude these claims," he fumed, dismissing Mrs Merin's reward as a "tip".

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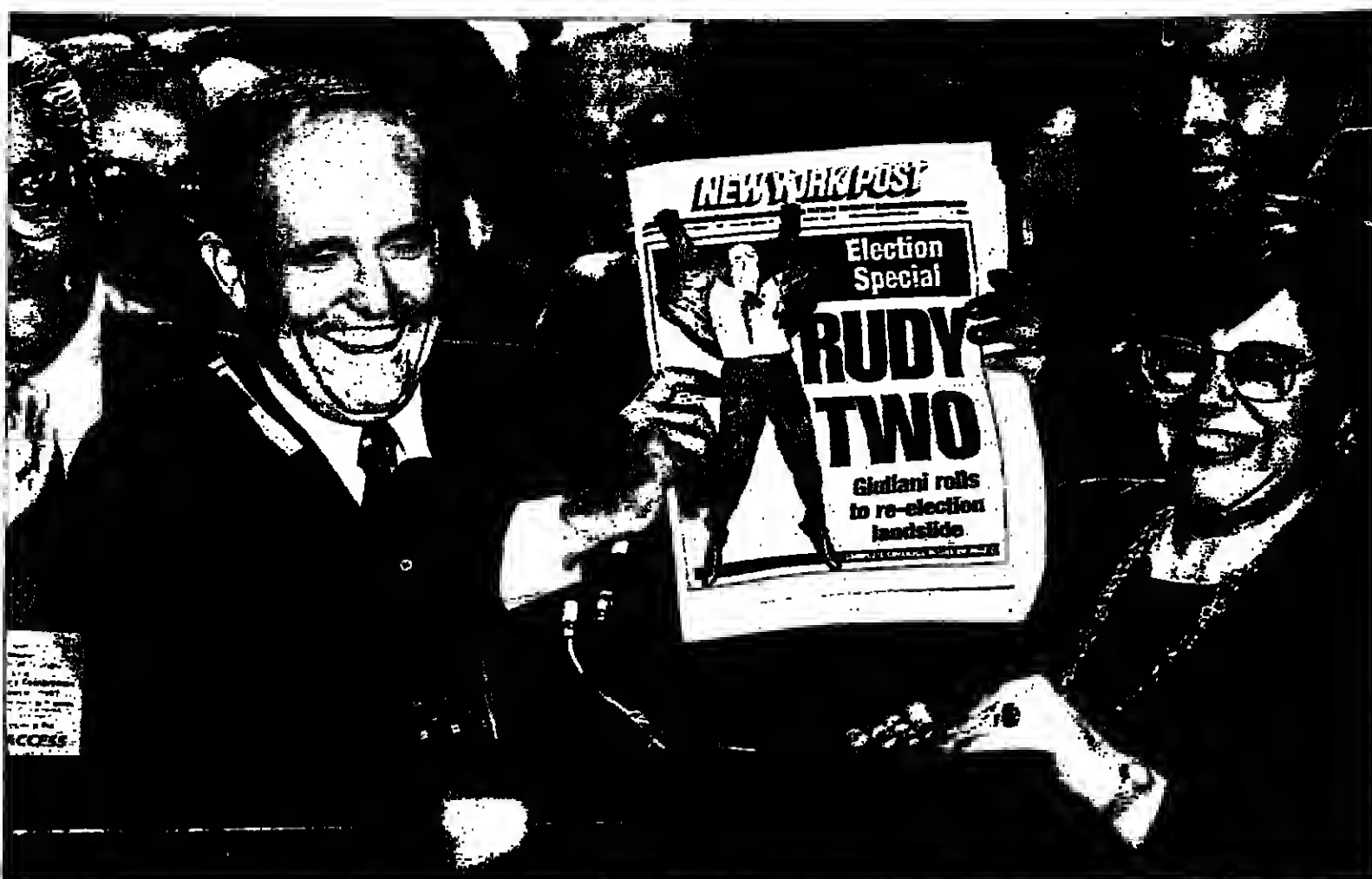
## Republicans win the election issues

Washington - Results of Tuesday's state and local elections were hailed by the Republican Party yesterday as a significant precursor of next year's mid-term Congressional elections. A closer look at the results suggests, however, that party political considerations were not at the forefront of voters' intentions, as Moy Dejevsky explains.

On the face of it, Tuesday was an excellent night for the Republican Party. They won both the state governor posts that were being contested, in Virginia and New Jersey, and in Virginia took all three top state posts for the first time: governor, lieutenant governor and attorney general.

Rudolph Giuliani was re-elected mayor of New York City, with a double-figure majority - much increased from his 3 per cent victory four years ago, and Republican mayors elsewhere retained their posts. The Republicans also kept easily the one Congressional seat on offer - the New York seat vacated by Susan Molinari who defected from the House of Representatives to become television talk-show host and spend more time with her family. The chairman of the Republican National Committee, Jim Nicholson, who was in Virginia to support the victorious candidate for governor, Jim Gilmore, said that the Virginia campaign could provide a model for next year's Congressional election campaign.

The night was hardly the disaster for the Democrats that



Headline news: Rudolph Giuliani holding a copy of the New York Post declaring his re-election as the city's mayor

Photograph: Mike Segars/Reuters

these results suggest, however. They lost in New York to an incumbent mayor who had been attracted support across the party divide for restoring safety to a city that was regarded before his election as dangerous and in irreversible decline. The extent to which Mr Giuliani was seen as first as saviour of New York and only second as a Republican was illustrated by the fact that he had a support group of "Democrats for Giuliani" and - according to exit

polls - received 70 per cent of the traditionally Democrat New York Jewish vote, against his Jewish Democrat challenger. Yesterday, Mr Giuliani intimated that he would not rule out using his success as a springboard for higher office.

Both the biggest "victory" and the biggest disappointment for the Democrats was the race for governor in New Jersey, where the present governor, Christine Todd Whitman, only just fought off the challenge

from Jim McGreevey, a local Democrat. Ms Whitman, a prominent Republican sometimes fancied as a presidential candidate in 2000, retained her post by only 1 per cent.

The forces at work in this election, however, were remarkably similar to those at work in Virginia. Mr McGreevey trumped Ms Whitman on the very policy, a traditionally Republican one, that had brought her a surprise victory four years before - cutting taxes.

And he almost succeeded.

In New Jersey, a state - like Virginia - with large numbers of suburban commuters, Mr McGreevey attacked Ms Whitman for allowing local property taxes to be the highest in the country and for not curbing increases in car insurance rates - also the highest in the country. Even though the governor has no direct authority over either property taxes Ms Whitman was thrown on to the defensive.

In Virginia the Republicans pledged to abolish the hated state property tax on cars - and won on this one issue. A majority of traditional Democrat voters who actually voted Democrat on Tuesday, said that their top priority was education spending and standards. About one-third of Democrats, however, said that for them the car tax was the priority issue, and they had voted Republican. As one commentator said, the message from both states seemed to be: "Don't mess with our cars."

## Texans back policy of affirmative action

Voters in the north-western state of Oregon decided by a large majority to retain a law permitting terminally ill patients to end their lives, re-implementing a provision approved three years ago but never implemented. In Houston, Texas, voters decided by a slightly slimmer majority not to end the 13-year-old policy of affirmative action.

Both these referendums - two of 43 state and local issue ballots held in different parts of the United States along with Tuesday's elections - had been closely watched because of their wider implications. At least nine other states are considering the introduction of "assisted suicide" laws, while the Houston vote on affirmative action was seen as a last opportunity for supporters of affirmative action to stall a growing backlash against the policy that favours women and ethnic minority candidates for public service jobs and grants.

Last year, Californians had voted by a large majority to end the state's affirmative action policy, and the Supreme Court this week allowed that decision to stand. At federal level the courts are expected to end affirmative

action as a national policy, despite President Bill Clinton's strong support for it.

Although Houston was only the second area (after California) to vote on affirmative action, it was also seen as a last bastion of that policy. If a city with a non-white majority - approximately 36 per cent Hispanic, 22 per cent black and 6 per cent Asian - voted to abolish racial preferences, it was argued, there was almost no chance of affirmative action surviving anywhere else in the longer term.

The outgoing mayor of Houston, Bob Lanier, who had campaigned tirelessly for its retention, said of the 54 to 46 per cent vote: "I think this is a decent city with decent instincts... If the city perceives a position as being racist, it will lose."

The vote in Oregon, which went 60-40 per cent in favour of keeping a regulated form of euthanasia, showed a bigger majority than the 51-49 per cent result three years ago. The pro-euthanasia position won, despite a fierce opposition campaign spearheaded by the Catholic Church.

— Mary Dejevsky

## CLINTON COMES TO AID OF WORKERS

President Clinton yesterday outlined a plan to help American workers displaced by overseas competition in his bid to win congressional approval of expanded trade negotiating power.

Mr Clinton said he wanted to provide \$750m in additional funding to retrain dislocated workers in answer to Democratic concerns that new trade deals could lead US companies to relocate abroad to take advantage of cheap labour. "We must greatly expand our efforts to help workers who lose their job because of technology or trade or other economic changes," Mr Clinton said. "We will not create or save jobs in the short run or the long run by refusing to open markets to our products."

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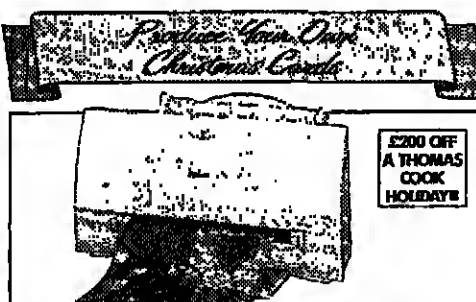
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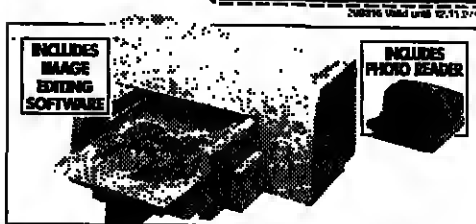
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## Kremlin palace guards at war after Yeltsin ditches his election financier

Boris Yeltsin has fired a leading member of the small clan of immensely wealthy businessmen close to the Kremlin. As Phil Reeves reports, there is now a split among his most powerful supporters. So far, it only involves words - but sticks and stones could follow.

After months of rumblings, tension within the Kremlin erupted into full view yesterday when Boris Yeltsin fired one of the tycoons who helped secure his re-election. Boris Beresovsky, one of a handful of Russian financiers who joined forces to bankroll Mr Yeltsin's

campaign last year, was dismissed as deputy secretary of the Security Council, producing a rift in the ruling elite surrounding the President.

His demise was a result of a conflict with Russia's two powerful deputy prime ministers, who spearheaded the troubled transition to Western-style economics. Anatoly Chubais and Boris Nemtsov. Hours after Mr Beresovsky's dismissal, flew between the opposing camps. Mr Beresovsky accused the two ministers of "constantly trying to steer" ORT, one of Russia's leading television channels which, though formally state-owned, he controls.

He also implied Mr Yeltsin had been bamboozled into firing him, remarks which, despite Mr Yeltsin's return to health, echo last year's allegations that

he is out of touch. He told Echo Moskvi radio station that the situation is "what we have been fighting against - one in which an official may enter the President's office and have any decree signed."

Mr Beresovsky's media stable includes several other leading publications - notably, the newspaper *Nezavisimaya Gazeta* and the respected magazine *Ogonyok* - which seem likely to form the vanguard in a damaging media war between pro-Yeltsin factions. Mr Nemtsov applauded the firing as "absolutely right", saying Mr Beresovsky had sought to combine his government work with business activities.

From the moment he entered government, Mr Beresovsky was the source of controversy. However, although

his job was widely perceived as a reward from Mr Yeltsin for his support last year, he is credited with furthering the peace deal in Chechnya.

While in government, he claimed to have suspended his business activities but tensions surfaced earlier this year when he lost out in a bid for a stake in the state telecommunications monopoly Svyazinvest - which went to a consortium which included the international financier George Soros. His outrage was duly reflected in the coverage given to the issue by his media outlets.

The issue now is whether he will turn his considerable media fire-power against the President. Yesterday Mr Beresovsky indicated the opposite, saying there was no alternative to Mr Yeltsin.



As a young man, Rembrandt, aged 26, gazes from his newly authenticated 1632 self-portrait which went on show at the Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam, yesterday after hanging unrecognised for years in a Paris art dealer's bedroom

## Blair reaches for the sky as French arrive

President Chirac and Prime Minister Lionel Jospin arrive tonight for the latest Anglo-French summit. As Rupert Cornwell and John Lichfield explain, the omens are set for a friendly meeting. But striking French truckers and the planned single European currency could yet spoil the show

Almost as important as the contents of the summit perhaps are its setting and trappings, picked by the Government to project a new-model Britain under new-model Labour.

Canary Wharf is an emblem of the revived Docklands district of east London. Interior décor on its hitherto unoccupied 38th floor, where tomorrow's talks will be held, comes courtesy of Terence Conran, while the wind-up lunch will be prepared by a trendy young British chef, Antoo Escalera, of the Midsummer House restaurant in London.

Before comes the serious discussion, complicated by the dictates of cohabitation. Mr Blair will have 75-minute sessions with the Gaullist president and his Socialist prime minister, and a mere 15 minutes à trois. Truckers permitting, Europe looks set to be the main item on the diplomatic menu.

Mr Chirac arrives 24 hours after meeting Chancellor Helmut Kohl. His aim here will largely be to defuse hostility to plans, largely French-inspired, for a Euro-council of single-currency countries, which London fears would exclude non-EMU members like Britain from Europe's key economic and monetary policymaking forum.

But he and Mr Jospin will say it will be to Britain's interest if sterling is merged into the Euro in due course, as Messrs Blair and Brown seem to intend. France believes the new body will enable a measure of political and democratic management for the Euro-zone, to

offset the technocratic power of an independent, unelected European Central Bank.

Mr Blair will be prohibing French intentions for the bank after Mr Chirac and Mr Jospin made their proposal this week of a French candidate, Jean Claude Trichet, Governor of the Bank of France, as its head. It throws into doubt prospects of the former Dutch central-bank governor Wim Duisenberg, who has caused consternation in Bonn, a strong supporter of Mr Duisenberg, and in the Hague. France is also not convinced of the merits of a German suggestion that Britain should be given a seat on the bank's six-man board, even though it is outside EMU.

The summit will come giftwrapped with bilateral agreements: an Internet link between French and British schools, Franco-British co-operation on recruitment techniques for a volunteer military to which France is converting a children's garden will be laid out in Paris, named in honour of Diana, Princess of Wales.

But there are potential areas of trouble, most obviously the truckers' strike. Neither side wants it to dominate proceedings, certainly not the French Socialist government, which does not want to venture into the citadel of New Labour half-paralysed by an Old Labour industrial dispute.

But if it is not settled by this evening, there will be no avoiding the topic. And whatever happens, British officials say Mr Blair will raise the matter of unpaid compensation for losses incurred by British handlers from similar disruption in 1996.

On Iraq, London and Paris are united in insisting United Nations arms inspectors must be allowed to work unhindered. But Britain will be watching for any hint of backsliding by the French, given the abstentions of France, Russia and China on a UN sanctions resolution last month, which gave President Saddam Hussein the opening to cause trouble now.

### Bardot has the last word

A French court yesterday ordered Brigitte Bardot's former husband and his publisher to pay her 50,000 francs (£5,300) in damages for having invaded her privacy in a kiss-and-tell book. But the court threw out the actress's request to seize copies of Jacques Charrier's book *My Answer to BB*, published by Michel Lafont, which tells his side of their three-year marriage that ended in divorce in 1962. They had one child, Nicolas, who joined with Mr Charrier in successfully suing Ms Bardot, for invading the privacy in her best-selling memoirs, *Initiales BB*. — AP, Paris

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## Lenin's bewildered heirs contemplate a lost kingdom

The 1917 Bolshevik Revolution, 80 years old this week, produced the world's largest political machine, a sinister apparatus whose tentacles stretched into almost every crevice of the Soviet Empire and beyond. But what does it mean to belong to the Communist Party in today's Russia? Phil Reeves reports from Moscow.

The grandson of Molotov, Stalin's sidekick whose signature sent thousands to their graves, can still remember how the old man would justify his career. "He would say, 'Well, when we took over power, the country was wearing *lapti* - shoes woven from bark. And when I went out of power we had launched Sputnik and had nuclear missiles. Now that's not a bad job, is it?'"

Vladimir Putin - a 41-year-old political consultant in Moscow, who shares his grandfather's first name but not his politics, says Molotov "regretted many things" about his life. But "in general he thought he was doing the right stuff", having thrust the Soviet Union into the 20th century and saved it from the Nazis. His grandfather does not appear to have been unduly haunted by the fact that, according to one of Stalin's biographers, Robert Conquest, this included counter-signing 3,167 death sentences in one day - 12 December 1937 - before going to the cinema.

"He felt that the Terror was a necessary part of the preparation for World War Two. Stalin, expecting a big war, was just preventing society from internal splits. At the same time he thought there were mistakes. Too many people suffered through false allegations." Thus were Lenin's tactics of terror administered, underpinning both Stalin's dictatorship and reinforcing the vast apparatus that supported it.

During Molotov's career - which began as a Bolshevik revolutionary under Tsar Nicholas II and ended in 1986, and included three years as Foreign Minister of the Soviet Union - the Communist Party and totalitarianism became one and the same.

Run by a privileged elite, and reinforced by a terrifying security service, it ruthlessly monopolised the Soviet Union's wealth, its political power, its speech, even its history. Then, and until Mikhail Gorbachev

unwittingly brought about its collapse, party membership was an essential requirement for the ambitious, be they teachers, industrialists, policemen or bureaucrats. Now that has all changed.

This week, on Tuesday evening, in a packed hall in Moscow, 2,000 bold or grey-haired heads gazed up at the stage, where an orchestra and choir were assembled beneath a 15ft banner of Lenin. The musicians launched into the hymn of the proletariat, "L'Internationale", the opening number in a concert to mark the 80th anniversary of the October Revolution. Soon the audience was singing along to Russian patriotic songs and ancient hits from Soviet films.

There were speeches about Soviet triumphs in space, and other glories from the past. But, above all, this was a gathering of elderly people who - bewildered by the new, dangerous and valueless Russia - wanted to scuttle dewy-eyed back to the golden era of the Second World War. Without the emblems, you could have been in the British Legion. Yet this gathering also represented the foot soldiers of con-

tionalism, orthodox Marxism, and Stalinism. By far the largest is the 500,000-strong Communist Party of the Russian Federation, led by the uninspiring Gennady Zyuganov. Its powerbase lies in the State Duma (parliament) which, with the help of nationalist and radical left forces, it controls. But the Duma is weak, and so is Mr Zyuganov. Faced with being marginalised, he conducts an unending balancing act between the right and left - trying to retain influence on the Kremlin by quietly working with the Yeltsin administration, while keeping the left from defecting by decrying Yeltsin's rule as criminal. Part-Communist, part-Russian nationalist, he doggedly woos the Orthodox Church - sacrifice for those purists who believe in the nihilist state.

The results of these politics are so unconvincing that his Central Committee has split asunder. One committee member, Tatyana Astrakhankina - infuriated by the leadership's recent decision to abandon a motion of "no confidence" in the Yeltsin government - accused them of "only pretending" to be in opposition. And yet, no obvious replacement to Mr Zyuganov is in view.

Nor does he have many options. The Communists have very little chance of taking control of the key institution in the country, the hugely powerful office of presidency.

The Communist electorate is elderly and rural, largely comprising the millions of Russians who have gained nothing from the reforms, but have lost the security of welfare and the guaranteed (if meaningless) jobs for life provided by the Soviet Union. This core electorate is showing every symptom of being frozen around or below the 30 million mark. In the second round of the presidential election last year, it hit the top of its range, with just over 40 per cent of the vote, some 13 per cent less than Boris Yeltsin. Under Russia's electoral system, the president is elected in a second round from the top two candidates from the first. As they appear incapable of ever mustering half the electorate (unless turnout collapses), the Communists stand no chance of winning.

Tomorrow, the Communists and their allies will unfurl their red flags and parade in honour of the Revolution. There will be plenty of sound and fury, plenty of wishful thinking about forcing through real political change. But it will signify, if not nothing, then very little.



1917: Conscripts for the Red Army, forged during the Bolshevik Revolution, being examined by medical staff



1997, and one thing at least is unchanged: Recruits in the post-Soviet army at the ablutions Photograph: Obshchaya Gazeta

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## Even in Bath the millennium builds a head of steam

**A brilliant scheme for a new bath house should not only restore Britain's most famous spa but also, says Nonie Niesewand, provide a modern building worthy of its setting.**

Bath is to have a new bath-house if the Millennium Commission gives its council £6.5m to develop the blue-plaque city as a spa town again.

Bath has Britain's only naturally occurring hot springs and the architect Nicholas Grimshaw has designed a building that uses the heat from the hot springs to heat it, as well as the pools and a Bath stone building behind a glass facade. Steaming away like its inhabitants, this facade will look like the opening to *Phantom of the Opera* with dry ice swirling in mists.

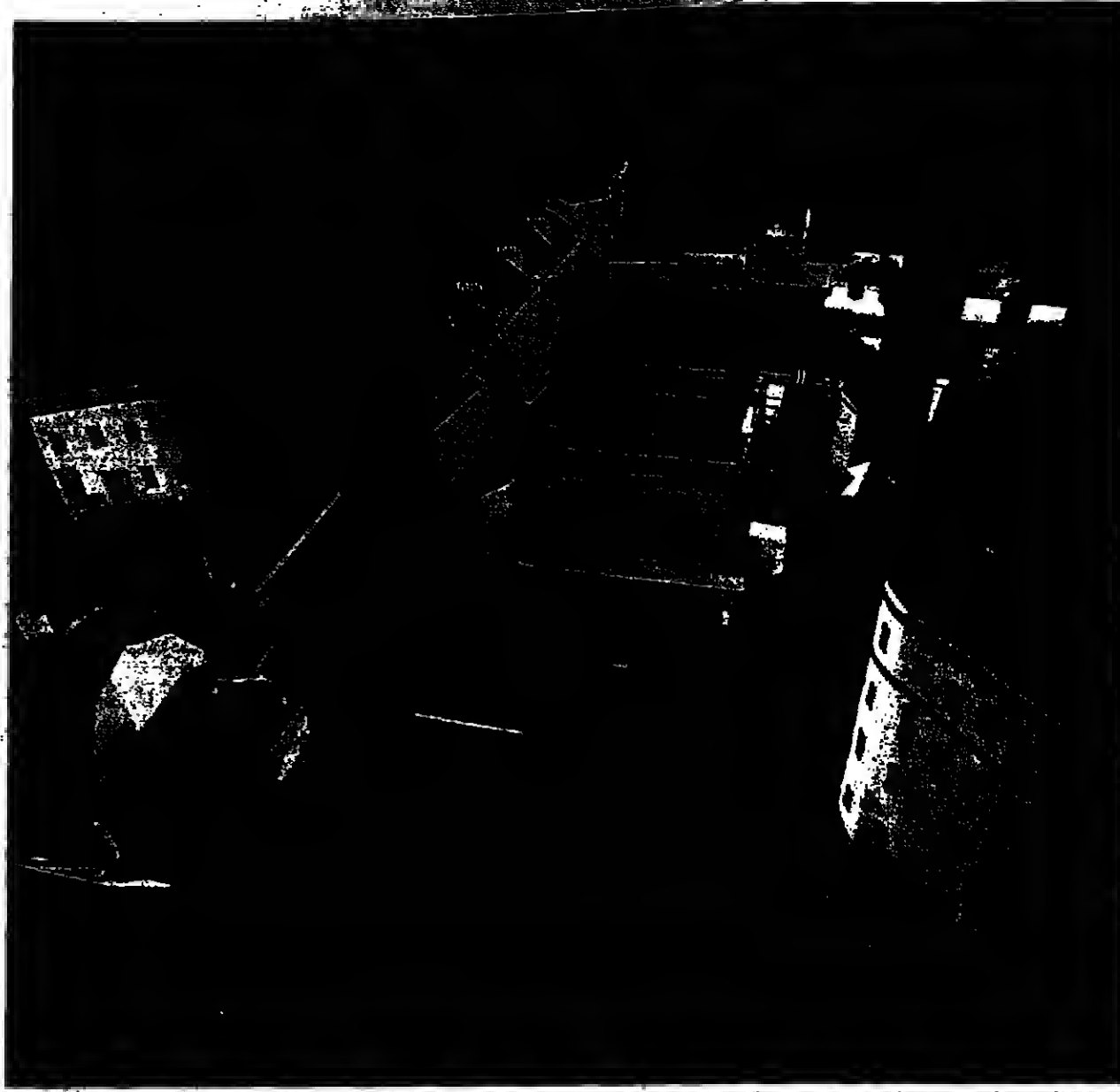
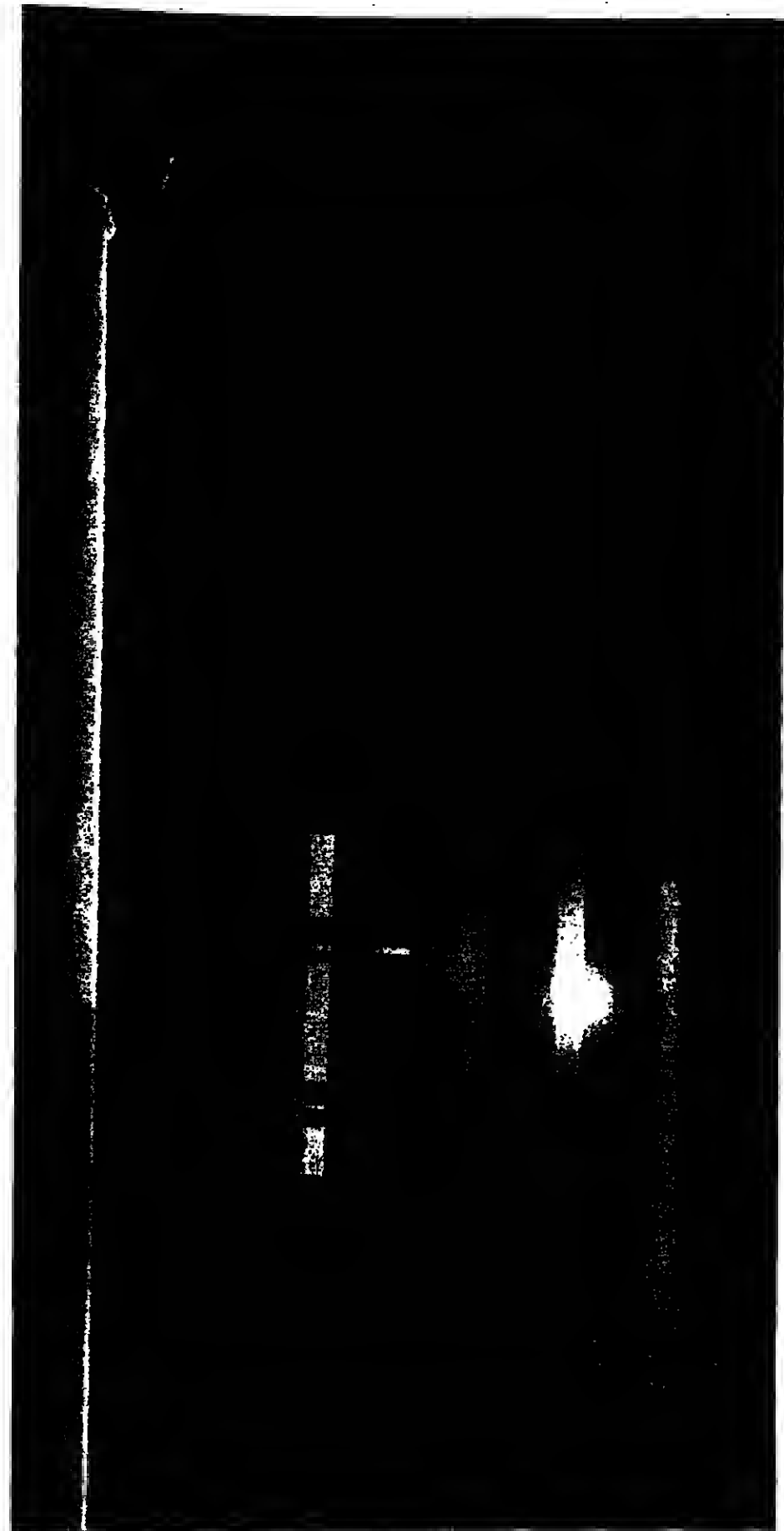
Hundreds of fine glass pipes sandwiched in the glass facade will carry thermal water from the earth's core to heat the building in winter and with venting, cool it in summer. The way he has used water and steam as an integral part of the building illustrates Grimshaw's eco-tech approach to architecture. In the scorching summer of 1992 in Seville he made the British pavilion the coolest glass box with a fountain down the facade.

"It's a great opportunity to reunite Bath with its waters," said the architect, who proposes to connect the new Spa complex to the Roman baths with a wonder wall of steam from the end of Bath Street along the centre of the colonnaded Bath Street to terminate at the Cross Bath, restored as a working spa.

The wonder wall will link four historic listed buildings, the Cross Bath, the Hot Bath, the Pump Room and No7 Bath Street. And to build the new spa the Beau Street baths will be knocked down. An historic building in a World Heritage site, these municipal baths, built in the 1920s are a great loss. They have an acceptable stone elevation with a pediment at Beau Street, but ugly angled steel trusses, roof lined with asbestos. Besides, they had become rather "seedy" as Paul Simon, project manager for the Bath council, described them.

"Bath is renowned as a city of wonderful architecture but there's not one decent example of 20th-century architecture. This building by Grimshaw will be our last opportunity."

Using water and light, glass and stone, the new Spa building will offer treatment rooms, hot baths and jacuzzis, as well as three swimming pools, available at special discounted rates for local residents. Sensitive to its historic site, proportions of the new building totally mirror the square plan and inner sanc-



**Water world:** Computer generated images of the planned bath-house which will have swimming pools, jacuzzis and treatment rooms. The bath stone building will have a glass facade which will hold hundreds of fine glass pipes to carry the thermal waters. The waters will be used to heat the building in winter and cool it in summer.

stresses, backs, skin ailments." So how do you prevent it getting like Lourdes?

"Cross Bath is the sacred pagan shrine of the Celts, one that the Romans dedicated, and there are those - myself included - who believe that it is a spiritual place within the space. At present it is enclosed by a semi-derelict Georgian stone wall and glimpsed through a metal grille in the wall. It is atmospheric and moving. That will be left for people to make the pilgrimage to those waters," Mr Simon said. Then there are rooms for serious medical treatment, from straightforward physiotherapy to acupuncture and hydrotherapy.

Throughout the research of the project, Bath council involved a disabled access lobby group in Bath which was given a grant separately to pay for its own architectural consultant to advise on the lifts, ramps and hydraulic platforms for pool areas. And Mr Simon hiked across France and Germany, Spain and Hungary to discover just why Continental employees build into workers' contracts sabbaticals at a health hydro every few years.

Unlike so many projects

tumbling from the drawing boards of architects around the country to get the last lottery money from the Millennium Commission, this project has been ingeniously worked through both in style and content. As the Ove Arup engineer Alistair Guthrie says "Nick Grimshaw has made a real effort to integrate new technology and new ideas within the context of Bath. There is a certain sense of old set against the new - Bath stone buildings against the glass buildings flow from one to the other". Equally important, Bath Spa addresses the way in which all these Millennium-funded projects will be judged in the next century - by projected attendance figures.

Bath is already the fourth biggest tourist attraction in Britain, after London, Edinburgh, and York. The council is determined to make the most of this position with the 18th-century, small and intimate spaces enhanced by the big bold Grimshaw complex that will run as a viable commercial venture. In order to qualify for Millennium Commission funding, a scheme must look back over the last two millennia and forward to the new one.

## The smartest walk-in cupboard in Paris



**A tiny apartment which uses new technology to utilise small spaces has been shortlisted for a major prize. Nonie Niesewand explores the revolutionary rooftop**

Estate agents are targeting a new breed of international clients whose des. res. has to be a "lock up and go". Downsized, downtown, and smart enough to function without its own car. This rooftop apartment in Paris measures just 8m by 4m, little more than a walk-in cupboard.

But it has other mindblowing virtues: as its owner, the international human rights lawyer Chris Avery, Enrostars it to his Paris pied-à-terre for the weekend, a phone call from him activates the system which makes the

limestone floors warm up, along with the water. This is smart architecture, and behind smart architecture there's always a smart architect. Mark Guard, the designer of this apartment calls it "a flexible envelope in three inter-connecting boxes". Panels that slide or pivot can make three rooms or open out into open plan. Between the kitchen and the bathroom is an electro-chromic clear glass door which turns opaque when it is closed (an electrical impulse activates the coating). This kind of responsive glass gives privacy without cutting light from the core.

By singling it out as the winner of the RIBA housing award, to be shortlisted with six other buildings for the Stirling prize later this month, the institute is making a point about houses of the future. It uses the new technology to make the most of small

spaces and shows how to pack in a lot of ideas within a few cubic metres. Behind sliding doors which are hinged to fold back flat, are three distinct areas for sleeping, bathing and cooking combined with living (doubling as a guest room with a sofa bed hidden in a stretch limo of a white sofa). All the essentials of modern living are here and neatly concealed: TV, washing machine, fridges, and wardrobes neatly concealed. It uses limestone, glass and wood for a simple structural formality without sacrificing comfort. The sleeping area and the bathing area are at the furthest end of the rectangular apartment, separated by sliding screens.

"We needed to plan it to keep the full visual dimensions of the envelope," said Mark Guard who added that the brief was complicated by the client wanting his friends and family to have somewhere to sleep. So he devised the open plan to have private partitioning when needed.

The exterior is a bit *Bladerunner*, criss-crossed with walkways on the roof. It used to be the janitor's flat on top of an eight-storey Art Deco building in the 5th arrondissement, reached by taking a lift ride to the top floor. The front door opens rather disconcertingly on to the roof, rather than into an apartment, for a walk among the chimney pots to this little glass-fronted house facing west among the satellite dishes.

Mark Guard opened up the view of the domes of the Pantheon and Val



**Vision of the future:** The electro-chromic clear glass door between the kitchen and bathroom turns opaque when it is closed. The apartment (above left) is on the top of an eight-storey building.

de Grasse, the cathedral that is now a military hospital. Then he extended the limestone floor from within on to a terrace for al fresco summer dining.

The original was a very dilapidated cement structure with algae in the interior so it had to be rebuilt and fitted for a price of £118,400. Mark Guard found it cheaper to buy

French limestone slabs for the floors in Britain and to ship them to Paris where everything costs more. He's hesitant about calling himself a minimalist because he doesn't like the "isms" in architecture. He insists that his work is not about reduction, but more about addition as he adds layers of function within the existing space.

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sweet.





Mark Ravenhill, the gay playwright famous for 'Shopping and Fucking' wrote the third series of 'This Life'. When it was cancelled there were dark rumours that it was his fault. Not so, he tells David Benedict.

"When I first started, people didn't care when I mentioned that I wasn't using any of the old characters," says Mark Ravenhill, the writer entrusted with creating a third series of *This Life*. "But in the end it reached the point where if I said 'Anna's not going to be in it', entire rooms would go silent. It was extraordinary. People would come up to me and say threateningly, 'I hear you're going to get rid of Miles...' It's so ironic, I'm going to be more publicly lambasted, ridiculed and attacked for dropping a character called Miles from a soap than I am for putting running and buggery on the West End stage."

And lambasted he certainly has been. As rumours of the demise of *This Life* grew, and turned into "fact", fingers were pointed in several directions. Who had brought about this television catastrophe? More fingers pointed at Ravenhill than at anyone else. He was tried by the media and found guilty without hitherto saying a word in his own defence. Mark Ravenhill had killed off *This Life* by writing a story line that was too gay. Shopped it and faked it, so to speak.

The truth, according to Ravenhill, is less dramatic and more complicated and focuses not upon him and homosexuality, but on Tony Garnett, the 61-year-old producer, a radical since the Sixties who fell out of love with the programme. Why? Because all the experimental reasons for its existence had gone.

Gayness, as Ravenhill points out, certainly was not the problem. The first two series had a dramatically high sex count and from the very beginning the programme quickly established itself as gay cult viewing. This was, after all, late-night BBC2. When Warren, one of the original characters left the show, the gay quotient was continued by the complicated shenanigans of the bisexual despatch-rider Ferdy - who proved so popular that he is now emblazoned upon the poster for the current London stage version of *Jesus Christ Superstar*.



'This Life' in his hands? Up to a point, Mark Ravenhill says it was not gay sex that killed off Britain's favourite small-screen co-habitees

Photograph: Adrian Dennis

## At last! Exclusive! What really killed off 'This Life'. By the writer many blame

"I looked at the first two series," says Ravenhill, "and said to the producers, 'well, I think you've done gay men pretty thoroughly. It would almost be nice not to have any for a while'. I was asked to be the lead writer, which meant writing 'the bible' [the outline for the new, thirteen-episode series which Garnett's company wanted to commission] and the key episodes."

"I put a couple of subsidiary gay characters in my bible, and a big lesbian storyline which batted up as the series went on,

but there was less male sexuality than before."

"At that time, the second series had just started, but it wasn't anything like the cult it became by the end."

When Ravenhill met Garnett, whose track record includes such groundbreaking, influential works as *Cathy Come Home* and *Key*, he was suitably impressed. "He's an extraordinary man. He's got real integrity, real standards. He can be a bit of a difficult old bugger but it's always huilt around trying to do the right thing."

Ravenhill duly accepted the commission but realised that he was in difficult territory: the BBC wanted the third series to be very much like the second, but Garnett was not exactly wedded to that idea.

Although much of the recent gossip was about which of the cast would return, they had already all been killed off. "Tony always liked new stuff. I think he saw it as the fringe theatre of TV. He always wanted new actors, new writers, new directors... it was like a training ground. Having regulars wasn't

in the spirit of the original conception."

Ravenhill even removed the whole idea of lawyers from the equation. He was much more interested in the difficulties of a fresh group of twentysomethings sharing a house and trying to deal with the fact that although they are old friends, they now have vastly differing incomes.

Much of the blame for the *This Life* "tragedy" was dumped on the shoulders of Mark Thompson, controller of BBC2 - who is said to have delayed too

long and thus lost the cast to other projects - but Ravenhill is swift to defend him. "He was accused of dithering but I think that was very unfair."

So what did happen in the end? "Tony called me and said: 'You're going to hate me for this, but I'm not going to make a third series and you'll probably not want to talk to me for a while, but if you ever have an idea for the future, come to me.' And that was that."

Ravenhill bears Garnett no ill-will whatsoever, which might seem surprising, except when

you consider that he has been paid to undertake a masterclass in writing drama for television, something most young writers would gladly give their eye-teeth for.

Garnett is notoriously wary of the press and has remained silent but for the brief press release in which he stressed the excellence of Ravenhill's work and the friendliness of the relationship between his own production company and the BBC. As far as he's concerned, "in the end, I decided it was time to move on."

Fans may have wanted to follow the fallout from the gruel some marital finale of series two, but Garnett quit while he was ahead. He didn't want to repeat the formula - several of the cast were unavailable anyway - and the risks in a "new improved" version were very high. He had, it should be recalled, been on similarly dangerous territory before.

It was Garnett who made the excellent police investigation series *Between the Lines*. At the end of series two, the plot exploded, leaving the third series as a pale imitation of its ratings-grabbing predecessors. There was a distinct danger that history might repeat itself. With the BBC hungry for more work from the company, mature reflection would suggest cutting *This Life* off in its prime may have been the smartest of moves.

## Should I tell my friend the bad news about her new lover?

VIRGINIA IRONSIDE



### DILEMMAS

Iris's best friend slept with a new man when they were drunk. Now she's excited, almost preparing for marriage. But Iris has heard that he's told a friend it was all very funny, and he was dragged to bed by her. Should she tell her friend?

Isn't it interesting to see what happens after a one-night stand? He brags to his mates that it was nothing - he was dragged to bed by a beautiful woman and hey, what a stud he is and yet what a nightmare it all was; she, on the other hand, justifies it by practically setting a marriage date with wedding bells pealing over the countryside.

What is Iris's role in all this? For she, too, has a part in the drama. Is it a kind of aggression that makes her want to reveal to her friend a confidence that will hurt her desperately, and sabotage any relationship the two lovers might have in the future? Or is it a weird kind of desire for absolution, a belief that honesty is the best policy, however cruel?

Some people can keep secrets. They are the better type of person, those who realise that their knowledge has the potential to hurt. The others are those within whom secrets itch to get out, within whom secrets feel like a burp or a fart, painful blobs of poison gas that need release. The truth is that the man might just have been fantasising. There is always a chance that they may have the opportunity of a real relationship together. And if Iris is so keen on telling the truth, then shouldn't she, logically, tell the man, too, about the fact that her best friend has been fantasising about marriage? That would put the cat among the pigeons.

Secrets are very hard to bear. They fester within us, longing for an outlet. Gossip is a useful way of discharging the burden of secrets without actually telling the protagonists in a situation that you know about them. By telling her friend directly that her one-night stand has been behaving badly, at least in conversation, Iris risks losing the friendship. It is the bearer of the bad news, after all, who frequently is put to the sword, not the perpetrator of the act.

She should ask herself which is more painful: losing a friendship, or keeping the secret? Keeping a secret is often agonising, but it is often the right and moral thing to do, for in the long run you find that the secrets are distortions of the truth, and it's only later that you are delighted to find they have no foundation.

I recently had a "frank and truthful" letter from a friend, about a situation in which I had not acquitted myself too well, that hurt me enormously. Had she never written, the problem would have sorted itself out satisfactorily. No more would have been said; time and general goodwill would have sorted it out. She described the letter as a method of "lancing the boil", but the very fact that she had written a letter created another boil. Those who attempt to mediate by telling the truth, in other words, often get killed or punished in the telling.

If I were Iris, I would not attempt to interfere in something that is none of my business anyway. She is a confidante, a friend, not a spy. And if she is a true friend she must bear the burden of confidence she has been given, and do her best to erase it from her mind.

Letters are welcome, and everyone who has a suggestion quoted will be sent a bouquet from Interflora. Send comments to me at the Features Department, The Independent, 1 Canary Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL (fax 0171-293 2182), to arrive by next Tuesday morning. And if you have a dilemma that you would like to share, please let me know.

Just be a good friend. The role of a best friend, in offering insight into a new guy, changes as the relationship develops. If he fails to ring at an early stage, there are so many possible reasons, ranging from the lack of interest that you suspect in this man, to the genuine affection but reluctance to start a new relationship that might be seen in a decent bloke who's just emerged from another relationship.

At this initial stage, your friend would gain nothing from being told the brutal truth of the former, when a gentler lie-down would be to believe the latter. Obviously, if your friend dates this guy for some time and he's behaving like a rat, then you would be bound through loyalty to tell her what you suspect about him. I'm always slightly suspicious of "best friends" who

seem to take great glee in telling you how indifferent a guy is; it smacks of envy and spite. Are you sure you're not feeling slightly piqued at being usurped in her affections by this new guy?

In any case, even if your motives are pure protectiveness, you can't believe everything you hear; lads by definition lad about with their laddy mates, and it may be that this guy really does like your friend, but has been boasting. I would keep quiet for the moment, but if the phone remains silent, be there with a box of tissues, a bottle of wine and a copy of *Bridget Jones's Diary*.  
Leyla Sami  
Glasgow

Don't make judgements. No - absolutely not; you would be making judgements about the actions of two consenting adults, and you would be colluding in hearsay. Even if the conversation between the two men has been repeated verbatim, it may in itself have been an exaggeration. Allow free access of communication between the two parties. Your friendship will best be served by lending an ear when asked.  
M Leishman  
London W4

Your role is to be a support. No, no - please don't tell her. But listen with interest and pleasure to her dreams - perhaps with a casual "Well, it may be a bit early to make plans.

You might go off him..." Then, if it all falls apart, as you fear, she can turn to you, her best friend, for support and commiseration that "he wasn't worth it", and, "you'll find a much better fellow who'll see what a lovely girl you are", etc.

What she wants is your friendship at this time - not a kick in the teeth.  
Katherine Whittle  
Bolton  
Lancashire

Iris's friend must take the consequences of her actions. I think adults are better off when they take responsibility for their own lives.

I know this can be hard, but it can lead to learning and growth. One difficulty is that Iris cannot be sure of the facts. Hearsay can be misleading, and confuse the issue. On an adult level, I think that Iris needs to take a step back and not get involved (unless invited by her friend).

If Iris's information is correct, her best friend has a shock in store. However, it was her friend's choice to do what she did, and her decision to react the way she has. Iris's friend will be stronger for bearing the full consequences of her own actions, painful though they may be.

Iris, as a best friend, can be there as a true source of support.  
Nicholas E Gough  
Swindon  
Wiltshire

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# 21/OBITUARIES

## Harold Plenderleith

Harold James Plenderleith, museum conservator; born Coatbridge, Lanarkshire 19 September 1898; MC 1918; Assistant Keeper, British Museum 1927-38; Deputy Keeper 1938-49; Keeper, Research Laboratory 1949-59; member, Honorary Scientific Advisory Committee, National Gallery 1935-81; Chairman 1944-58; Professor of Chemistry, Royal Academy of Arts 1936-58; Director, International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property 1959-71 (Emeritus); CBE 1959; President, International Institute for the Conservation of Museum Objects 1965-68; FBA 1973; married 1926 Elizabeth Smyth (died 1982), 1988 Margaret MacLennan (née McLeod; one stepson, three stepdaughters); died Inverness 2 November 1997.



Meeting of the commission of inquiry into the van Meegeren forgeries held at The Hague in 1946. Left to right: Martin de Wild, Harold Plenderleith, Professor W. Froentjes, Paul Coremans and Ian Rawlins

Harold Plenderleith was Keeper of the British Museum Research Laboratory from 1949 to 1959, and first director of the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property in Rome (now known as Iccrom) from 1959 to 1971. He had been recruited in 1924 by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research to work under the direction of Alexander Scott FRS, in a small laboratory established five years previously at the British Museum to investigate the causes of the deterioration of certain types of museum objects during wartime storage in underground railway tunnels. In the 1920s he was involved with Howard Carter on the scientific analysis of finds from the tomb of Tutankhamun and in the 1930s and 1940s with the analysis and conservation of Sir Leonard Woolley's finds from the excavations at Ur of the Chaldees. His first 10 years of museum experience led to

the publication of his book *The Preservation of Antiquities* in 1934. *The Conservation of Prints, Drawings and Manuscripts* followed in 1937 and *The Preservation of Leather Bookbindings* in 1946. Plenderleith's early years were difficult as Scott was rarely present and the laboratory was run by a former retainer of his called Ernest Padgham. However, in 1931 the laboratory was transferred from SDIR to the British Museum and Plenderleith became an assistant keeper; he was promoted to deputy keeper in 1938. In the 1930s international co-operation in the field of museum conservation was gathering pace, with Plenderleith playing an ever-increasing role. The League of Nations established an International Museum Office which organised conferences in Rome (1930), Athens (1931), Paris (1933) and Madrid (1934) to discuss the conservation of works of art, antiquities and monuments. Plenderleith was present at Paris and Madrid and was joint editor of a manual on the conservation of paintings which derived from these meetings. However, this co-operation came to an abrupt end with war in Europe. Even the first specialised journal devoted to this field, to which Plenderleith contributed several papers, *Technical Studies in the Field of Fine Arts*, published by the Fogg Art Museum at Harvard University, ceased publication in 1942.

Harold Plenderleith was born in 1898, the eldest of four children of an art teacher at the Harris Academy in Dundee and the daughter of a medical missionary in New Zealand. He was educated at the Harris Academy, where he won the Dux Medal in his final year, and then went up to the University College of St Andrews in 1916 to read science. He left after two terms to go to Officer Training School, hoping then to join a Highland regiment. He found himself, however, gazetted second lieutenant to the

Lancashire Fusiliers, who, as Plenderleith himself once said with a grin, "needed stiffening with Scots officers". He served on the Western Front from 1 August 1917, being wounded in the arm by shrapnel at Ypres, and awarded an MC for a successful night raid across no man's land to knock out a pill-box and take prisoners. He returned to university after convalescence, but this time at University College, Dundee, and graduated BSc in 1920 and PhD in 1923. Plenderleith was too old for war service in 1939 (although his batman from 1917-18 wrote to say that he would like to be his servant again), but he played

a key role in saving the British Museum collections from bombing by working with the Director, Sir John Harcourt, to get as much as possible away to safety in various country houses and a state quarry in Wales. This time round, however, thanks to the work of Harold Plenderleith, much more was known about the optimum storage conditions for antiquities so that the "safe" destinations were not only safe from bombing but safe from the point of view of the environment. Plenderleith was later to record in a lecture delivered at the British Museum in November 1978 to mark his 80th birthday that "all the antiquities came back this time in perfect condition". With the cessation of hostilities, Plenderleith became involved in the examination and conservation (by Herbert Maryon and Herbert Batten) of the finds from the Anglo-Saxon royal ship burial excavated at Sutton Hoo, near Woodbridge, in August 1939 and then quickly "reburied" in the Aldwych tube for the duration. Many of the objects have since been re-conserved to better effect, but this does not diminish the contribution made to our understanding of the ship and the king who was buried in it which was made by this trio. One of their "mistakes" was to restore the pair of silver-mounted drinking horns on the basis of measurements made on the skull of an aurochs, the prehistoric wild cattle of Europe, at the Natural History Museum. They were unaware, however, that the aurochs had undergone a dramatic reduction in size during the last glaciation, so that by Anglo-Saxon times the horns were more modest in size. The drinking horns have since been re-restored and reduced in size from a volume of 12 pints to four, with a consequent reduction in our admiration for the hitherto capacity of our forebears. In 1947 Plenderleith was

part of the commission of inquiry into the van Meegeren forgeries held at The Hague in 1946. He was charged with fraud instead of collaboration. Some of those members of the Dutch art world who had been deceived refused to co-operate, and a panel of international experts was invited to inspect the works. Plenderleith felt sorry for van Meegeren, giving him cigarettes during the interrogation, and himself failing to see how anybody could have been fooled by the paintings, which had been made to look old with a false "patina" created using modern synthetic resins. Plenderleith was appointed Keeper of the British Museum Research Laboratory in 1949 and published *The Conservation of Antiquities and Works of Art* in 1956 (a second edition, prepared with A.E.A. Werner, appeared in 1971). He was one of the founding fathers of the International Institute for the Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works and its first honorary treasurer (from 1950 to 1958). He became a vice-president in 1958, and President from 1965 to 1968. Under Plenderleith's vigorous leadership, the British Museum Research Laboratory branched out after the war into Carbon 14 dating and developed the scientific examination of antiquities by acquiring a battery of analytical instruments for the rapid analysis of metals, pigments, ceramics and gemstones. Plenderleith had, by this time, become an international

figure, much in demand as a lecturer and consultant and it was no surprise, therefore, when he was invited by Unesco in 1959 to be the first director of its new International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property in Rome. He spent 12 years there, developing teaching courses and travelling the world on advisory missions, until final retirement, to Dundee, in 1971. Harold Plenderleith was a big man with a broad Scots accent, of which he was proud. He was universally liked, and regarded as the doyen of museum conservators right up until his death. He gave his services instinctively, being a member of the Scientific Advisory Committee of the National Gallery for 46 years and its chairman from 1944 to 1958, Professor of Chemistry at the Royal Academy of Arts from 1936 to 1958, and Rhind lecturer at Edinburgh in 1954. In 1987 he attended the Jubilee Conference of the Institute of Archaeology of London University and its proceedings were dedicated to him, as were those of a British Museum conference in 1988, the year in which his former colleagues around the world celebrated his 90th birthday with a manuscript book of reminiscences. As recently as November 1995 he was in Rome to receive a bronze bust by the sculptor Peter Rockwell, which will stand in the new laboratories at Iccrom which will bear his name, and in September 1996 he travelled to Edinburgh to receive a specially struck silver medal from the Conservation Committee of the International Council of Museums which was holding its triennial conference. Within the space of half an hour he received three standing ovations from 600 conservators, many of whom were not even born when he retired from the British Museum.

— Andrew Oddy

## Tony Mayer

Tony Mayer, diplomat; born Paris 17 February 1902; married; died Menerbes, France 31 October 1997.

In many ways Tony Mayer was the Englishman's Frenchman. During his 28 years in London he was, from 1945 the Cultural Attaché, the senior of the many officials who held that title, but his was a permanent posting; the others came and went after two or three years, while he remained in London until his retirement, and his role never seemed exactly defined. His presence was discreet but ubiquitous, and seemed to have as much to do with commercial and diplomatic matters as with cultural. He knew everyone and was interested in everything, and he always seemed capable of bringing Anglo-French problems and differences to a satisfactory conclusion. If you approached

him with an idea that would enhance the French presence in British life and he agreed with it, the idea became a reality. He was the embassy's fixer. During his years in office London was fortunate to have some of the more cultured and sophisticated French ambassadors, and they gave a tone to the receptions at which Mayer was ever present, explaining what the guests did in life and their importance to cross-channel co-operation. Urbane, unflappable, he was a genial host at his own parties, sometimes under trying circumstances, as when Eugène Ionesco, on a visit to London, got very drunk just before a dinner given in his honour. He was put to bed, excuses were made, the dinner went normally, and Ionesco made an appearance later in the evening. Mayer presided over what can now be seen to have been a golden age for the arts at the

French Embassy in the late Fifties and during the Sixties, and although there were others with similar enthusiasm and competence, Tony Mayer was the man mostly responsible. London had a steady flow of French concerts, most of them at the Wigmore Hall, although the Royal Festival Hall, many provincial venues, and the French Institutes in different British cities all had their share. French artists of every description, singers, soloists, ensembles and orchestras introduced programmes of French music in all its rich variety, music seldom heard now. At the same time Mayer found ways to bring French drama companies to perform in London theatres, in performance at the Edinburgh Festival, and to tour. French authors, at his invitation, came to talk about their work or to read it at universities and the cultural institutes that the embassy maintained at

Oxford, Glasgow and Edinburgh. French plays were recommended for translation, publishers were helped with their translation costs and rejections to promote novelists and playwrights brought them to the attention of literary editors and critics. Exhibitions of French art were negotiated with museums and galleries. When de Gaulle came to London after the fall of France in 1940, calling all French citizens who were able to escape the German occupation to follow him and continue the struggle from Britain, Tony Mayer, who had been an exchange agent on the Paris Stock Exchange, responded. As a Jew it was fortunate that he did. During the Second World War he started his concerts (he came from a musical family) and his archives in old age still held the yellowing programmes, typed on wartime paper, of piano recitals, string quartets and

chamber ensembles, singers and soloists, some French, some British, many just starting their careers, but the music was always French. After 1945 these continued with Poulenc, Milhaud, Germaine Tailleferre, Dutilleul, Jean Françaix and others appearing as artists as well as composers, and Britten, Peter Pears and Marion Stein (later Lady Harewood and Mrs Jeremy Thorpe) were among the many British names. Over 120 French composers appeared. Peter Daubney, who brought to London seasons of imported theatre companies, received subsidy through the embassy to bring Jean-Louis Barrault, Madeleine Renaud and Edwige Fenech to their Paris productions and other impresarios found that Mayer's was the hand that could find ways to make things work: he knew how to approach the London financiers with artistic

interests and get them to contribute. In the 1950s London discovered Sartre, Anouilh, Rostand, then Ionesco, Adamov, and Beckett, then Obaldia, Dubillard and Arrabal. Although that great Francophile Harold Hobson, theatre critic of the *Sunday Times*, played a large role, the translation of these authors into English and their publication under British imprints would most of the time not have been possible without the strong support that came from the French Embassy. Ambassadors Chauvel and, later, de Courcel gave large and small receptions, and lunch and dinner parties, so that Robbe-Grillet, Nathalie Sarraute, Marguerite Duras and others could meet the British intelligentsia, and they paid for Hélène Cixous and Claude Mauriac to open the new French section of Better Books in Edinburgh. In 1960, in spite of the op-

position of the French foreign ministry, Chauvel, himself a poet and essayist, found ways through Mayer to help subsidise a long-planned publishers' promotional tour of three avant-garde French writers of the *nouveau roman* to 12 British universities: the disapproval was caused by their having signed a much-publicised manifesto against the Algerian war. Tony Mayer retired in 1968 and missed the philistine era that came with the Thatcher government, and he was not sorry that he never had to meet her. He bought a spacious house overlooking a fertile valley at Menerbes near Aix-en-Provence and Avignon, where the music and drama festivals found in him an ardent supporter, and where many other old friends were living or were frequent visitors. Mayer wrote a book about the English, *La Vie anglaise*, a best-seller in France, which

did well in its English version, published by Gollancz in 1958. It gave a brief history of the British people and took an amused but sharply accurate look at English habits and eccentricities; some of his observations were not appreciated. *La Vie anglaise* covers the same ground as Miles's *How To Be An Alien*, but digs much deeper, although its tone is always warm and affectionate. Those who knew him returned that affection. — John Calder



Mayer: fixer to the French

## BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

**BIRTHS**  
AYLIFE: On 1 November at Chelsea and Westminster to Will and Louise, a son, Frederick (Freddie) Jack.  
COKE: To John and Joyce (née Elkins), on 25 October, a fine son, Edmund Charles John, a brother for Matilda.  
**DEATHS**  
HUNT: Unexpectedly on Saturday 1 November 1997, Dr Gordon Peter George, late of Hove, aged 68 years. Beloved brother of Gloria, dearly loved friend of Chris, Rick and Maudie. Sadly missed by friends. Funeral service at Woodvale North Chapel, Levens Road, Brighton, on Thursday 13 November at 12.45pm, followed by burial at Peace Flowers may be sent to W.A. Stanger & Son, 12 Kensington Gardens, Brighton BN1 4AL, telephone 01273 603806.  
**MEMORIAL SERVICES**  
ROSTRON: Dr David Jodrell, died 20 September 1997. A memorial for him will be held at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, on Sunday 23 November at 3.30pm and afterwards at the Shakespeare Hotel. Those wishing to attend are asked to advise Mrs Thelma Brazier, telephone 01299 823631.  
Announcements for Births, Marriages & Deaths may be telephoned to 0171-253 2081 (24-hour answering machines) 0171-253 2082 or faxed to 0171-253 2080, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra).

**BIRTHDAYS**  
Dr James Barber, former Master, Hatfield College, Durham, 66; Professor Lord Bauer, economist, 82; Mr James Bowman, operatic counter-tenor, 56; Mr Frank Carson, comedian, 71; Mr Jacques Charrier, actor, 61; Mr Ray Coult, songwriter, 81; Mr David Exham, Headmaster, Biorham School, 53; Miss Sally Field, actress, 51; Dr Keith Griffin, economist, 59; Mr Nigel Havers, actor, 48; Mr Bernard Klein, designer, 75; Dr Stephen Layman MP, 45; Mr Leonard Miles, broadcasting historian, 83; Mr David Montgomery, chief executive, Mirror Group Newspapers, 49; Admiral Sir Anthony Morton, King of Arms, Order of the British Empire, 74; Mr David Moss, High Commissioner to Malaysia, 59; Mr Mike Nichols, film and theatre director, 66; Lord Nimmo Smith, a Senator of the College of Justice in Scotland, 55; General Sir David Ramsbotham, former Adjutant General, 63; Professor Sir Martin Roth, psychiatrist, 86; Mr Sir Saunders, football manager, 65; Sir Oliver Scott Bt, radiobiologist, 75; George Sinclair, former colonial administrator, 85; Mrs Malcolm Thyme, Headmaster, Felton College, 55; Mr Graeme Wood, cricketer, 41.

**Anniversaries**  
Births: Thomas Kyd, playwright, 1558; Adolphe (Antoine-Joseph) Sax, inventor of the saxophone, 1814; Dr James A. Naismith, inventor of basketball, 1861. Deaths: Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky, composer, 1893; Kate (Catherine) Greenaway, children's book illustrator, 1901. On this day: Abraham Lincoln was elected as 16th US President, 1860; the third battle of Ypres ended, 1917. Today is the Feast Day of St Basilus of Kyrius, St Demetrius of Nohlas, St Melaine and St Winnoc.  
**Lectures**  
Tate Gallery: Rachel Barnes, "The Sublime and Picturesque", Turner's travels down the Loire", 1pm.  
British Museum: Svetlana Lloyd, "Sensations Art Nouveau to Sophisticated Art Deco: Jewellery and Fashion", 1.15pm.  
National Portrait Gallery: "Characters and Characterisation in Raeburn's Portraits", 1.10pm.  
King's College London: Professor John Stokes, "Frogdigs and Profdigas: a short history of modern British drama", 5pm.

**LAW REPORT: 6 NOVEMBER 1997**  
**Newspaper article during trial in contempt of court**  
The publication of an article in the *Evening Standard*, containing photographs of and giving details of the previous convictions and terrorist connections of three men during their trial for breaking prison, was a contempt of court despite the fact that the jury knew from the outset that the defendants had been convicted of serious crimes. Attorney General's Associated Newspapers Ltd and the Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Kennedy, Mrs Justice Smith and Mr Justice Timothy Walker) 31 October 1997.  
The Queen's Bench Divisional Court found that contempt of court by Associated Newspapers Ltd, in publishing an article entitled "Alcatraz on Thames" in the *Evening Standard* on 22 January 1997, which led to the permanent stay of proceedings against six defendants accused of escaping from Whitemoor Prison in 1994, had been proved. A fine of £40,000 was imposed.  
The article in question concerned Belmarsh Prison, and included photographs of three named inmates, with a caption describing them as IRA terrorists and giving details of the serious crimes for which they were in prison. At the time of article's publication the three men were on trial with three others at Woolwich Crown Court for offences including breaking prison. A first trial had been abandoned after the publication in national newspapers (not including the *Evening Standard*) of information about the offences for which the men had been in Whitemoor, and of the links of five of them with the IRA.  
At the time of discharging the first jury, the trial judge had made an order under section 4 of the Contempt of Court Act 1981, prohibiting publication of details of the previous convictions of the defendants and any indication of IRA connections. He had directed that a copy of the order be sent to the editors of the national press and to the BBC and ITN. On the second day of the second trial he had reminded representatives of the media in court of the history of the case and had urged them to confine their coverage to what was said in court in the presence of the jury. The *Evening Standard*'s article appeared a week later, and the following day the proceedings were stayed permanently.  
David Patrick QC and Ian Burnett (Treasury Solicitor) for the Attorney General; Jonathan Caplan QC and William McCormick (Rogers Porter Chamberlain) for the newspaper.  
Lord Justice Kennedy said that the respondents had never intended to interfere in any way with the trial. A journal-

ist employed by the *Evening Standard* had been commissioned to write an article on Belmarsh Prison. Neither the journalist nor any of the other staff involved appeared to have been aware of the trial which was in progress at Woolwich Crown Court. In the circumstances, and particularly having regard to the history of the case and the efforts made by the trial judge to alert the media, what had happened was plainly negligent. There was, however, no evidence of anyone having been contemptuous. The sole issue in the present case was whether the article had created a substantial risk that the proceedings against the six men would be seriously prejudiced. The case was unusual in that the jury knew from the outset that all six defendants had been convicted of serious crimes, and that it had been considered necessary to house them in a special secure unit.

Some jurors might well have deduced that some at least of the defendants were IRA terrorists, and might also have recalled some of the pre-trial publicity. That was all information the jurors might reasonably be expected to put aside when they came to deliberate about the case, but the article in question was something different. No juror who had seen it could have failed to be gripped by it. It was an article which gave the newspaper-reading juror specific information about three of the six defendants in his current case.  
At the trial, much was bound to turn on the credibility of the witnesses, and the publication of the article, occurring when it did, was likely to have loaded the scales in favour of the prosecution in a way which no judicial warning could redress.  
— Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister

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## Saddle up, Tony, and join the Hezza cavalry



**POLLY TOYNBEE**  
WINNING THE  
VOTE FOR EMU

The EMU battle lines are drawn. The territory to be conquered in just four years is the support of the people. Now we know where everyone stands, the public campaign must begin, but so far there have been only muffled mumbblings from the Government.

The voters stand at two-to-one against EMU. Euro-scepticism is deep-dyed in the Union flag, soaked in it through the past 18 years of sceptic government, saturated by a passionately anti-European press. Sir James Goldsmith's deadly legacy of £20m spent on filling the air with Euro-phobia had its inevitable effect, with that powerful £3m video through every door in the country.

Yet on the face of things, the EMU campaign should be a straight re-run of 1975, when exactly the same proportion of voters started out against joining, but swung two-to-one in favour. All the big beasts are on one side: the Government, Ashdown, Clarke, Heseltine *et al*. The CBI and the TUC speak with one voice. A few brave captains of industry are starting to jump up on the parapet, waving the EMU troops on. The wise and far-sighted are beginning to present a formidable array. How could they lose?

Who's afraid of William Hague, Peter Lilley, Tony Benn, Sir Stanley Kalms or Norman Tebbit? There should be no contest here. But this raggle-taggle army has a nuclear armoury of weapons, whose exact capability we do not know, but rightly fear.

The sceptic weapon is Rupert Murdoch, who alone controls 41 per cent of newspaper readership, with Conrad Black and *The Daily Mail* standing shoulder-to-shoulder with him, all rabidly anti-European. Can the good guys win against their might?

The muted, strangled noises on Europe emanating from Downing Street so far spring from fear of the damage that Murdoch can inflict. But in the end the Labour leaders will have to stand up to him on this, because they have no choice.

So far, the Prime Minister has backed away from a showdown, because he thinks he can lasso Murdoch and bring him in gently on the end of a rope. He reasons that if public opinion swings behind the single currency, if the clouds of Europhobia are swept back and almost every sensible big player in the nation thinks we must join, and join soon, Murdoch wouldn't want his newspapers left stranded out among the mavericks. He always trims his views to suit his business interests in the end.

But the question is, can public opinion be changed unless the Prime Minister starts to use his government's huge public popularity to win the argument? Can we ever reach the stage where Murdoch's papers are

forced to change their line unless Blair comes out fighting first? Until now, Labour has never wanted to test the state of our democracy, to see whether the government or *The Sun* rules.

But the time is short and the campaign to win public opinion has no real leader until the Prime Minister gets on his horse to do battle with the penny Pouljadists, little Englands and cynical manipulators of gut xenophobia. So far, only timid noises come from his camp.

Too late and too grudging, Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, has at least made joining EMU official policy, liberating the Labour Euro-enthusiasts to campaign vigorously. But the message that emerged from Tuesday's Lib-Lab constitutional committee promising to advocate the merits of Europe was a tepid rallying-cry: "The Government and the Liberal Democrats have a shared interest in making Britain less Euro-sceptical". Less Euro-sceptical? That is hardly the stuff to set hearts and minds afire. We wait for a strong lead, but Downing Street says the Prime Minister has no plans to make a speech on Europe at present.

No; so far, the Conservative rebels have the beau rôle in all this. The Clarke/Hezza/Carry cavalry is charging in from the wing, sabres flashing. They look brave and honourable championing the national interest above party and popularity. The more gallant they seem, the more besitant and pusillanimous Downing Street appears. Tony Blair hasn't saddled up, and his posse are anxiously looking at their watches. He is leaving others fight his battle, hoping they win it for him.

The European Movement, the nascent pro-EMU referendum campaign, is about to announce a new heavyweight team of leaders from each party. Now they need support, a mass membership, local groups and most of all money—a lot of it—to undo the years of damage.

It won't be enough to rely on frightening voters with the dangers of being left out of the single currency. Nor will it be enough to sell the immediate advantages—lower interest rates, lower mortgages, exchange rate stability, and the like. The campaign needs to generate a new warmth for the European idea itself. It must mark the end, once and for all, to Britain's recalcitrant, bad-tempered, sourly obstructive behaviour in Europe, shifting the attitude of the people as well as the habits of our politicians. This must be Armageddon for Europhobia.

We all rightly criticise the EU as presently constructed, for its democratic deficit, the CAP and myriad other faults. But none of that should stop a wholehearted pro-European campaign, for none of that can be influenced one jot by us unless we are at the heart of Europe. "A fresh start in Europe, with the credibility to achieve reform," promised Labour's manifesto. Just so. "We will give Britain leadership in Europe," it said. But when, if not now?

It is easy to understand the unease with which the Government risks gambling its huge popularity on such an unpopular cause. But there is no choice. The next election will be fought on this issue, willy-nilly. Dragging their heels will not make it go away, so they had better come out of their tents now with all the panache of the Tory rebels. With a bit of bravery, they can see off the enemy—and at the same time show Rupert Murdoch that the battle can be won without him and despite him, because in the end Tony Blair rules, OK, and it will be Tony Blair Wot Woo it.

## 'Chicago' is ... an uncomfortable night out for a newspaper editor



**JOHN WALSH**

At a preview showing of *Chicago*, the deeply wonderful new musical in the Strand, I sat next to Max Hastings. The 9ft-tall editor of the *Evening Standard* was the tallest lupin among a whole garden of variegated celebrities (Sir Cliff Richard, Anthony Samson, Ned Sherrin) at this rollicking, son-of-*Cabaret* extravaganza.

It was a very hot ticket and a very cool evening. The upstairs crush bar was full of groovily dressed-down young men swigging Czech beer and smoking Black Russians. The audience was a-buzz with expectation before the show, and alive with whistles and cries of "Yeah-hurr!" after each sassy number. A lady of mature years couldn't take the strain and fainted at the end of Row G while Ruthie Henshall was singing "Roxie"...

Through it all, Mr Hastings sat with his raiment on his lap and on his face the expression of an Easter Island statue in the rain. Evidently he is not a fan of the Broadway musical, or the convention that you are allowed to clap before the final curtain. But just as he was (I gathered) resigning himself to terminal ennui, things on stage took a more interesting turn.

The book of the musical offers an amoral look at the celebrity value of murder, adultery and *crime passionnel*, and how you can be sure of getting a light sentence (or none at all) if you pay the bent attorney, screw the cop and do whatever the dykish matron of the remand centre requires of you. Along the way you learn to adjust your story for the newspapers. So—at one point in the first act, Billy Flynn the crooked attorney is explaining to Roxie

Hart what she should tell the Press when they arrive. "Oh, and don't worry," says Billy, "because the woman from the *Evening Star* will be here". Beside me, I could swear, Mr Hastings stiffened perceptibly. You'll be fine with her, explains Billy, she's called Mary Sunshine and she believes everything she's told.

I stole a sidelong glance. The editor of the *as-it-were* *Evening Star*'s nostrils were dilated. Was he running through a swift mental Rolldex to see which of his charges could possibly fit this description? Then on came Mary Sunshine, a huge lady, possibly *en traveste* in a long sweeping coat, to sing "A Little Bit of Good (In Every-thing)". It was, I think, the only moment in any Broadway musical in which a character is required to embody journalistic gullibility. And the bitch had to work for the *Evening Star*. Mr Hastings shifted in his seat and dredged his ear with an emperated forefinger.

Sorry to return to the hoary subject of Booker Prize Night a whole three weeks after the event, but the story of the Indian Car Fight is too good to miss. Picture the scene. Puppy-

ish, bespectacled former publisher David Godwin, a literary agent of few years' experience but a talent-spotter of quality, has two of his charges, Arundhati (*God of Small Things*) Roy and Jim (*Quarantine*) Crace, on the Booker shortlist, and both tipped by Ladbrokes and William Hill to win. The occasion obviously warrants a special gesture. So he hires a white stretch limousine for the evening. If either Roy or Crace gets the prize, they will be whisked off to the Winner's Party with Godwin in this transport of ecstasy, handily furnished with flowers, champagne, TV and, for all I know, en suite microwave and shower unit.

In due course, Arundhati Roy is announced as the winner. Loud huzzahs at David Godwin's table. As Ms Roy is interviewed by the nation's press, Godwin checks that the limo has arrived outside the Guildhall's main entrance. But there is a problem. I can't park there, reports the driver, there is a bloody great big black motor outside the main entrance already. Appalled, Godwin tries to get it moved. The driver won't budge. Whose car is it? The driver won't give the name; he'll only say it's a mysterious Top

Celebrity, who's attending the dinner with an entourage...

Godwin puts two and two together and stamps off into the Guildhall, where he confronts the Top Celebrity, waiting for his date to emerge from the Ladies. "Could you please," he demands, "remove your car from the front door?" Why? asks Salman Rushdie (for it is he). "Because Arundhati Roy's limo is supposed to be parked there," Godwin explains. Rushdie is unimpressed. An argument ensues as to whose car is bigger, whose reputation is more starry, whose credentials as Top Literary Indian Booker Laureate are more convincing.

Some versions of the story end with Godwin and Rushdie exchanging blows on the Guildhall forecourt. Others suggest that Godwin sent a note of apology to Rushdie the next morning. Others bring up Mr Rushdie's lack of enthusiasm for

Ms Roy's prize-winning prose style, as expressed to friends over recent weeks. Still others merely ponder the complicated symbolism that attaches to big cars and their temporary owners...

Now that the Government has decided not to back Mike Foster's anti-hunting Bill, I notice that one or two non-PC, pro-hunting articles are emerging from the undergrowth. This one, for instance:

"Hunting ... is the first activity a young man just out of childhood should take up, before turning to other subjects which will enhance his reputation ... A strong desire to hunt can lead to a great deal of profit. It makes for physical fitness, improves the sight and hearing, slows down the process of growing old and, above all, is good training for warfare".

Who can it be? Nicholas Soames? Camilla Parker Bowles? Rory Knight-Brace?

The essay, entitled "On Hunting", continues with a lot of advice about the training of hounds (the author warms against "dull-eyed, squinting, graceless, stiff-jointed, weak, thin-coated, long-limbed, badly-proportioned and listless" mutts, not to mention those with "unsound feet"); the way you should address them ("Well done, dogs", "Come back here, dogs"); and the best names by which to call them ("Spiri, Pluck, Handle, Spike, Lance, Raider, Guard, Picket, Trooper, Sword, Killer, Blaze, Butch, Battler, Ringwood..."). It also offers advice about how to stalk hares, deer and wild boar in the wild, the clothes you should wear and the equipment you should buy.

So who is this unreconstructed blood-sports fan, this spokesman for the discredited Country tendency? Here's a final clue. After releasing your hounds, Mr Know-All suggests, you must "pray to Apollo and Artemis the Huntress, pledging a share of the catch to each...". For this is not some modern-day John Peel—it's Xenophon of Athens, right-wing historian and biographer and enthusiast for the chase, writing in 370BC or so, newly translated by Robin Waterfield for Penguin Classics, and demonstrating that hunting is even more old-fashioned (or more respectably pedigreed, depending on your point of view) than you thought. Shame the Greeks didn't have a word for "Yoicks!"

## No, Algeria, it's not an 'internal affair'



**ROBERT FISK**  
THE CASE FOR  
INTERVENTION

"Accomplice" is the word I hear most in Algeria. Accomplice—as in collaborator, enemy of the people, friend of "terrorists". Ask why the army has not intervened to protect the villagers from the throat-slashing, and those Algerians loyal to their government reply in identical words. "The villagers voted for the FIS—they used to feed the terrorists in their homes." So they deserved it. Just because they voted for the now-banned Islamic Salvation Front. Ask about the thousands of young men and women "disappeared" by the security authorities and I hear the same word. They are "accomplices". In his testy letter to *The Independent* last week,

the Algerian ambassador to London made a similar remark. "The 'disappeared' have in fact, in most cases, joined the terrorist gangs," he wrote.

But they are Algerians. The villagers, the "disappeared", the FIS, the armed gangs, the guilty and the innocent. They are Algerians. They are part of the same great nation which fought with such endurance and bravery against French rule. The young "disappeared" whose photographs were published on the front page of *The Independent* last week are—or were—Algerians. The women who have been gang-raped in police stations are Algerians. So were the women and children slaughtered so viciously by the "Islamist" murderers of the Islamic Armed Group (GIA). And the terrifying thing about listening to the word "accomplice" is that those who use it are destroying the very unity of the country which they wish to maintain.

I put this point to an Algerian official the other day, a decent, highly educated man, a loyal servant to the military-backed government. Yes, he too lamented the use of the word "accomplice". He saw the danger which its use represented to the unity of Algeria. But when

I asked him about police torture, he disagreed. "Look Robert, you must realise that there are people who have lost wives and children. They are angry. And if you find one man and you think he knows of plans for a massacre in a village, well, do you not think it may be necessary to be 'against' him—if you can save all those lives?" For "against", read "torture".

But that, I said, is Israel's excuse—indeed, the very same appalling reason given by the Israeli government to endorse Israel's "shaking" torture of Palestinians: that such methods may be necessary to save lives (albeit that a thousand Palestinians have now been "shaken" for very few lives saved). My Algerian friend had no reply to this. He merely pointed out that we Europeans had no right to lecture Algeria about morality. And, up to a point, I had some sympathy with him.

Take France. The Jospin government isn't above lecturing Algeria on human rights. But in the 1954-62 war, the French massacred tens of thousands of Algerian civilians. In 1961, the Paris police force—under the command of Maurice Papon—massacred hundreds of Algerians by trussing them up and throwing them into the Seine. Of course, the

Algerians were fighting and killing Frenchmen in their battle for independence. But one reason the French loathed—and I suspect in many cases still hate—the Algerians is because Algerians are not a backward, ignorant people. They are intelligent—far too intelligent for most Frenchmen to tolerate. The Francophone veterans who fought the French read Camus and Molière. Tragic though their circumstances have since become, Algerians are a quick-witted, bright, discerning people. They deserve better than to be lectured to by us.

But. And it's a big but. It is time that the Algerian government stopped shuffling off foreign intervention as "interference in the internal affairs of Algeria". It is time that human rights groups were welcomed into Algeria. It is time for Algerian ministers to open their arms to the UN when its representatives offer help—not snub them, as the Algerians did to Mary Robinson. The revelations by lawyers and former security force personnel in *The Independent* last week that thousands of Algerians have been "disappeared" and that torture is now routine in police stations cry out for an international response. Even

General Mohamed Lamari, the armed forces chief of staff, admitted last week that "some excesses may have taken place on the part of individuals acting alone"—far short of the reality, perhaps, but a remarkable statement, all the same.

I can understand the anger of Algerians faced with a shrill and muralistic audience of Europeans and Americans. I can understand the anger of the Algerian ambassador to London, even if some of his statements were factually incorrect. To say that *The Independent* did not deem "victims of terrorism" in Algeria worthy of our front page—when page 1 of our edition of 22 October was taken over entirely by the story of massacre survivors—was, to put it mildly, being economic with the truth.

But Algeria needs our help. The *eradicateurs* in the government have signally failed to eradicate anything, while President Zeroual talks of "residual terrorism". General Lamari is warning of a long struggle ahead. And to what end? When an FIS leader appeals to the UN, he is slapped back under house arrest. When Europeans convened a peace conference in Italy—in which the FIS and opposition groups

appealed for dialogue—it was dismissed out of hand by the Algerian government.

Soon—very soon—the West is going to have to link the purchase of Algerian oil and gas exports to human rights improvements. The sale of military equipment—Italian pistols, American flak jackets and tear gas, German police vehicles—will have to be granted only after independent investigation of human rights. In Algeria, we are now told that the Denel company of South Africa plans to sell military helicopters to Algeria for use by the army in anti-guerrilla operations. Does President Mandela approve of this?

In the Middle East, the Europeans were asked to fund the now-dead Israeli-Palestinian "peace process" but ordered by the United States to keep their mouths shut. In Algeria, we are asked to provide the arms and buy the gas—and are again expected to keep our mouths shut. But why should we? One of the great nations of the world—the 18th oil exporter, the 7th gas exporter—is suffering 25 per cent unemployment and 47 per cent illiteracy, and is tearing itself apart on the edge of Europe. Its unity is in danger. And it is no longer an "internal affair".

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YOUNG OR OLD - THE PAIN'S THE SAME



	Unit	Chg	Yr Ago	Index	Chg	Yr Ago	Index
Brent Oil (\$)	18.97	0.03	21.37	GDP	114.00	3.90	109.7
Gold (\$)	314.05	-1.10	378.75	FPI	159.30	3.6	153.78
Silver (\$)	4.85	0.01	4.83	Base Rates	7.00	6.00	

www.bloomberg.com source: Bloomberg

Only a few  
circulating in  
a state in Tel-  
TCL and US  
Telw







## THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY SAMEENA AHMAD

### Boring old Whitbread

With the pub sector suffering a hangover, Whitbread's predictably boring results were a tonic. The big brewers have been out of favour recently following warnings from both Greenalls and Wolverhampton & Dudley. The fear was that with the huge sums being poured into developing managed pubs, returns would suffer. Whitbread's share price was dragged down too with the shares tumbling from 850p in July to less than 700p a week or two ago. But they have been recovering recently. Yesterday's half-year results served to further reassure that the company is on track.

Underlying pre-tax profits in the half year to August rose 12 per cent to £198m. The figures pushed the shares 11p higher to 801p. Though Whitbread hinted yesterday that it may expand some of its hotel and leisure brands on the Continent, what the market really wants to see are improvements on the return on its existing portfolio. This has been expanded significantly in the last few years by buying David Lloyd Leisure, Pelican restaurants and Marriott Hotels.

Encouragingly, Whitbread pointed out that it has invested £440m in new pub and restaurant openings in the last three years and that the annualised return on capital in 1997/98 was expected to be 16 per cent.

In beer, Whitbread has bucked the trend, improving volumes by 2.4 per cent in a market down 0.8 per cent. In sectors such as take-home, brands like Stella Artois have increased sales by 28 per cent.

If there is a potential problem in the Whitbread portfolio it may be Café Rouge. Though it is being expanded successfully outside London, like-for-like growth is just 1 per cent and the central London outlets are suffering from increasing competition.

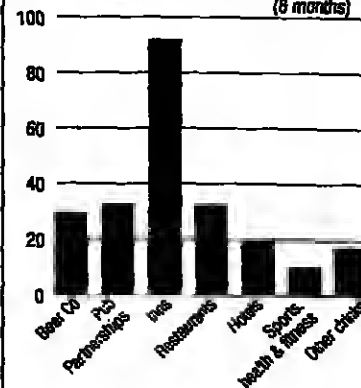
But with the hotels business storming away with strong rises in occupancy and yields, it is hard to find much to grumble about. On SBC Warburg's full-year forecasts of £348m, the shares trade on a prospective multiple of less than

### Whitbread: At a glance

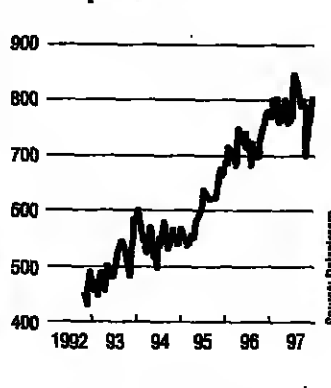
Market value: £3.92bn, share price 801p (+11p)

Trading record	1995	1996	1997	96/97	97/98
Turnover (£bn)	2.47	2.75	3.03	1.50	1.63
Pre-tax profits (£m)	215.4	235.7	302.5	178.1	208.5
Earnings per share (p)	42.75	46.08	50.84	27.23	32.86
Dividends per share (p)	20.2	21.85	23.9	6.25	6.50

### Operating profits by division £m



### Share price



15. That is a discount to the market and as a defensive stock looks a safe haven in these volatile markets. Hold.

### Tough future for ScottishPower

Executives from ScottishPower, like other multi-utilities, should chant the following mantra in the bathroom mirror every morning: "Doing deals is easy; reaping rewards in the long term is the difficult bit." A quick glance behind ScottishPower's impressive looking 44 per cent rise in interim profits, to £240m, shows the problem.

Almost all of the increase was due to the £1.7bn takeover last year of Southern Water, which has made direct year-on-year comparisons difficult. ScottishPower can point to successes, including selling £90m of Southern's rag-bag of non-regulated businesses, against an initial projection of £70m.

This helped underlying like-for-like profits at Southern rise by 24 per cent. But at ScottishPower's other business the performance looks less impressive. Generation earnings fell by 7m in the six months to the end of September, while at energy supply, the £5m cost of the company's assault on the domestic gas market halved profits to £5.7m. The story at Manweb, the regional electricity company, was of static profits of £50.5m as tough price controls on power distribution took their toll. On top of all this is the group's debt-laden balance sheet, with gearing set to rise to 125 per cent next year after the £317m windfall tax provision.

Against this ScottishPower has done more than most to grow its non-regulated businesses. The telecoms arm is making profits - a big achievement against its industry peers. The company insists its domestic gas business is also profitable, but it faces a stern test next year when British Gas cuts its prices by 9 per cent and wades into the electricity market.

From now on the going can only get tougher. Though the group's shares firmed 2.5p to 439.5p, investors cannot expect the miracles to continue forever.

### Rag and bone boost for Shanks

After years in the dumps, Britain's waste management sector is starting to look worth digging into. Long overdue consolidation is finally happening. In August General Utilities took out Leigh Interests for £116m and South West Water has bought Southern Water's waste business for £11m. Waste disposal prices are starting to rise. With fixed overheads, this is boosting profits. And increasingly stringent legislation is working in the big boys' favour.

The landfill tax introduced last year is prompting companies to use specialised disposal methods which only the big players can provide. Though recycling prices have been falling, European legislation early next year will make recycling of everything from paper to steel a legal requirement.

Shanks & McEwan, the UK's second-biggest waste group, should benefit from all this. Michael Averil, chief executive at Shanks, which yesterday posted underlying profits up 10 per cent to £67.6m for the half year to September, believes recycling will be a massive market. With no real competition, the group has scope to grow its recycling business, currently loss making. With gearing at 19 per cent and some 3,000 small private waste groups in the UK, Shanks is poised to make acquisitions.

Meanwhile, Shanks is the only UK group with a contract to incinerate meat and bone meal from slaughtered cows at risk of BSE. Shanks' contract is to process 45,000 tonnes in the next three years. But with a 300,000 tonne mountain of pulped cow building up, there is more work if Labour is prepared to pay. Shanks' share price, down 2.5p to 148.5p, is creeping back after hitting almost 240p in the early 1990s. On a forward p/e of 17 times, decent value, particularly given the bid whiff in the air.

## Strike and sterling cost BA £250m

British Airways yesterday revealed the scars left by this summer's cabin crew strike and the strong pound as it reported a 34 per cent drop in profits for the key July to September period. Michael Harrison reports.

BA disclosed that the industrial action and the impact of exchange rates had blown a £250m hole in its performance, cutting second-quarter profits from £320m a year ago to £210m. However, the airline soothed City worries by reporting that its business efficiency plan would deliver savings of £200m this year and that it was now more than half-way towards its goal of cutting £1bn from costs by 2000.

Bob Ayling, BA's chief executive, said the measures taken so far - including the outsourcing and sale of parts of the business, relocation of some

accounting functions to India and redundancy programmes - would produce £600m savings.

The remaining £400m would come from efficiency improvements, re-organisation of flight schedules and driving down supplier costs. The extra savings, he added, were not contingent upon BA launching a low-cost, no-frills airline to compete with carriers like Ryanair, Debonair and easyJet.

The City reacted positively, marking BA shares up by 27p to 603p. The strike and exchange rate losses were also offset by £157m of exceptional profits from the sale of BA's stake in USAirways and part of its holding in the Galileo reservations system, which left first-half profits down 8.5 per cent at £430m.

Mr Ayling said BA did not expect a decision from Brussels until early next year on whether its alliance with American Airlines would be approved. BA brushed aside reports yesterday that the Commission would block the deal unless the two airlines came up with a pack-

age in the next couple of weeks setting out the number of take-off and landing slots they are prepared to surrender.

However, it has emerged that BA executives and officials from the Competition Commission Karel van Miert's division will meet next week to discuss slots. Brussels has said it wants BA and American to give up 350 slots but a compromise, based on them relinquishing 200-250 slots, is thought to be possible.

Sir Michael Bishop, chairman of British Midland, the country's second-biggest scheduled carrier, meanwhile disclosed that profits this year would show a "significant improvement" on the £7.2m achieved in 1996.

Sir Michael also sounded a warning note over the BA-AA alliance, and the open-sides deal that would follow if it is approved. Although it would lead to the "fears war to end all fears wars" across the Atlantic, it could also turn Heathrow into a "bucket and spade airport for North America".

## Powerhouse keen to expand

Powerhouse, the electrical retail group which was a management buyout from Hanson last year, is likely to hit the acquisition trail soon as it seeks to expand its store portfolio. Glyn Moser, the company's chief executive, also said the company was considering a stock market flotation though there were no immediate plans.

Mr Moser is interested in acquiring some of the Shoe City out-of-town stores from Sears, the struggling retail group. Powerhouse is keen to add to its 36 superstores but says its 83 high street outlets are also per-

forming well. With net cash of £17.2m, the company has the firepower to acquire a whole business rather than just individual sites.

Mr Moser was speaking as Powerhouse reported a pre-tax profit of £1.7m on sales up 8 per cent at £67m for the six months to September. The company had been losing £25m-£30m a year when it was acquired from Hanson in June last year.

Mr Moser said summer sales were boosted by the windfall money. But the company said this money was fast disappearing.

Powerhouse has formed a number of joint ventures for concessions in its stores. It has signed deals with Time Computers and DX Communications as well as trials with Country Kitchens and Jessops Photographic.

The group opened a further four superstores in the six months in Cardiff, Coventry, Dagenham and Southampton. A further three will open in the second half at Tamworth, Cannock and again at Cardiff. A total of £1.7m was spent on new openings in the first half.

- Nigel Cope

## CLASSIFIED

### Public Notices

## OPRAF

### RAILWAYS ACT 1993

#### PROPOSAL TO DISCONTINUE RAILWAY PASSENGER SERVICES

The Franchising Director gives notice under Sections 38 and 41 of the Railways Act 1993 that, after due consideration, on or after 24 May 1998 Central Trains Limited proposes to withdraw passenger services from and terminate the use of the following stations and route for passenger services:

**SINFIN CENTRAL**  
**SINFIN NORTH**  
**THE ROUTE FROM MELBOURNE JUNCTION (NEAR PEARTREE STATION) TO SINFIN (DERBYSHIRE)**

Objections to the proposed withdrawal of services and/or closure of the station, preferably in writing, may be lodged within six weeks of 13 November 1997, i.e. by 8th January 1998 with:-

Ms Teresa Perchard, Passenger Services Group, Office of the Rail Regulator, 1 Waterhouse Square, 138-142 Holborn, London EC1N 2ST  
Telephone: 0645 645625 (all calls charged at local rate)  
Fax: 0171 282 2043

The Rail Regulator may make objections public or copy them to the operator proposing the closure.

A statement of the reasons for the proposed closure can be inspected on any working day between 10am and 4pm at the Office of Passenger Rail Franchising (OPRAF), Golding's House, 2 Hay's Lane, London SE1 2HB, telephone 0171 940 4200, or at Derby City Council, with the following:

Steven Martin, Senior Committee Services Officer, Corporate Services, Derby City Council, The Council House, Corporation Street, Derby DE1 2FS  
Tel: 01332 293111

Copies of the statement can be obtained by request from OPRAF. There will be no charge for copies.

The Rail Regulator will send a copy of every objection to the proposed closure which is lodged with him to the Rail Users' Consultative Committee (RUCC) for the Midlands. The RUCC will then consider whether the proposed closure will cause any hardship and, if so, what reasonable means of alleviating this hardship would be. The RUCC will prepare a report on their conclusions and send it to the Rail Regulator. The Rail Regulator will decide whether the proposed closure should be allowed and, if so, whether any conditions should be attached to the closure.

There is very little use made of the Derby-Sinfon Branch by passengers and the signalling of the route is incompatible with modern rolling stock. As a consequence of this Central Trains Limited has been providing a taxi service on a daily basis since September 1993 to convey the small number of passengers using the service. Alternative transport is provided by the 38, 39, C38, C39, bus service run by Derby City Transport Services.

The Derby-Sinfon branch is fitted with Lucas low voltage track circuits. These are outdated and incompatible with track circuit actuator fitted trains, including all types of modern generation diesel multiple unit trains. The only trains that can be used on the service are the old "heritage" DMUs, these units are no longer used in the East Midlands.

The cost of replacing the track circuit equipment to allow modern trains to use the line was estimated in February 1997 to be £50,000. The Franchising Director does not consider the cost of replacement of the track circuit equipment represents good value for money given the very low numbers using the service.

These stations and the route will remain open and services will not be withdrawn until the Rail Regulator has made his decision.

Chris Stokes

Duly authorised by the Franchising Director

OFFICE OF PASSENGER RAIL FRANCHISING

### Charities

#### WRITERS TAKE NOTE!

Enter the Cancer Research Campaign's new short story and poetry competition - Write for life - to get the chance of winning £2,000.

Stories should be 1-2,000 words in length, poems no more than 40 lines. The £5 entry fee will be ploughed back into vital cancer research. The CRC and Inner Wheel Club of Worthing Steyne are staging the event. Closing date is February 28 1998. The award ceremony is at Arundel's Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust next June. For more information and an entry form contact the CRC's 75th Anniversary Appeal Team, telephone: 0171 224 1333. Registered Charity No. 225838



### Unusual Gifts

## THE INDEPENDENT CHRISTMAS GIFT GUIDE

With Christmas just around the corner, over 1.4 million Independent and Independent on Sunday readers will be looking for gift ideas.

Our Christmas Gift Guide can help you promote your products and services to our discerning readers.

The Christmas advertising section appears in both the Independent and Independent on Sunday on the following Saturdays and Sundays:-

November 8th-9th, 15th-16th,  
22nd-23rd, 29th-30th  
December 6th-7th

We not only offer special discounts - up to 25% for 14 insertions - but also our Christmas Competition encourages our readers to study the advertisements closely. To find out more and to book your space...

call the  
**Christmas Gift Guide Team**  
0171 293 2323  
0171 293 2344  
Source: NRS July 96-June 97

## Credit agencies 'breaking the law' over data on relatives

Credit reference agencies may be breaking the law because they hold financial information on the relatives of people who apply for mortgages and other credit, according to Which?. The consumer magazine says the main credit reference agencies, Equifax and Experian, hold information on any relatives who have shared a home with a customer who applies for credit. Other people on the applicant's record who pay bills late can cause customers to be turned down for a mortgage or other loan. Which? said agencies were holding data on relatives at any previous address when the law only allows data on the last previous address. The magazine, which is tied to the Consumers' Association, retrieved 113 files from the agencies. Of these, eight contained information which is, according to the researchers, illegal. Serious mistakes were contained in a further nine people's files, with one showing a woman owing £1,637 when she had repaid this debt years before. In a separate survey of 8,000 people, the magazine found none of the big four banks - Lloyds TSB, Midland, NatWest and Barclays - were rated above average for their service. Yet they retain two-thirds of the country's customers.

## Seagram profits advance

Seagram said yesterday that its first-quarter profit rose 4 per cent on improved performance by its drinks and music businesses. Net income in the quarter to the end of September rose to \$133m (£79m), or 37 cents a share, from \$127m in the same period a year before. The summer blockbuster, *The Lost World: Jurassic Park*, made a strong contribution, and profit at Seagram's global spirits and wine business rose to \$191m from \$182m.

## Oftel raps telephone groups

WorldCom, the US telecoms group, Global One, the international consortium, and two UK telephone groups were reprimanded yesterday for not giving UK customers enough information about the quality of their services. Don Cruickshank, director-general of UK telecoms watchdog, Oftel, said the companies had failed voluntarily to publish performance tables of service standards, which would allow customers to choose between them. He warned this raised the likelihood of a European Union directive to enforce full competition. Mr Cruickshank especially criticised Britain's Colt Telecom Group, the Eurobell cable company, WorldCom and Global One, the partnership between Sprint, Deutsche Telekom and France Telecom. Most telecoms groups in Britain publish service performance on issues such as fault repairs, bill accuracy and complaint handling every six months. WorldCom said it would provide the information from 1 January 1998.

## C&W to run multimedia first

Cable & Wireless has been given the go-ahead to operate what it said would be the world's first fully interactive multimedia service in Hong Kong before the end of the year. The Hong Kong operation will give customers access to video-on-demand services, music channels and home shopping.

### COMPANY RESULTS

	Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
British Airways (Q)	4.5bn (4.4bn)	430m (470m)	31p (28.7p)	4.7p (4.25p)
L. Gardner (Q)	35.3m (22m)	4.4m (2.5m)	21.3p (15.6p)	7.9p (6.5p)
Newcastle (Q)	33.8m (28m)	2.8m (728,000)	8.56p (9.49p)	2.25p (0.85p)
Naigam Properties (Q)	-1-1	3.4m (1.01m)	1.9p (0.44p)	nil
Scottish Power (Q)	1.4bn (1.3bn)	240m (187m)	-11.3p (12.38p)	6.8p (6.17p)
Shanks & McEwan (Q)	66.3m (61.4m)	12.7m (11.6m)	4.3p (3.9p)	1.4p (1.3p)
Whitbread (Q)	1.6bn (1.5bn)	198.1m (177.5m)	31.12p (27.1p)	6.82p (6.25p)
(Q) - Final (Q) - Interim				

## Bovis to push ahead with float despite volatility

Bovis Homes is pushing ahead with its flotation despite the volatility in the stock market. P&O, owner of Bovis, admitted yesterday that it considered postponing the flotation last week when world markets were on the verge of collapse.

The house-builder is scheduled to end its 23-year absence from the stock market on 11 December with an expected price tag of around £300m. Shares in Bovis will be placed with institutions but private investors will be able to subscribe through stockbrokers and independent financial advisers.

The pathfinder prospectus, published yesterday, shows that several directors will receive bonuses to enable them to subscribe for shares at the placing price, which will be fixed a week before trading begins on the stock market. Malcolm Harris, chief executive, will receive a taxable bonus of £173,000. Ron Walford, finance director, will get £94,500 and five other directors will receive bonuses totalling £232,000. All seven executive directors have agreed to apply for additional shares, and employees have the right to apply for a minimum of £500 worth of shares each.

P&O will sell all its shares

and new shares are being issued to raise £194m to repay Bovis debts to its former parent. The new public company will be debt-free.

Bovis ranks 12th in the UK league of house-builders, selling 2,456 homes at an average price of £90,100 last year and making an operating profit of £29.4m on a turnover of £367m. Profit before tax was £23.3m.

Mr Harris said the company's best strength was its policy of combining a range of facades and finishes with a handful of basic designs and using standardised components. It has a landbank of 8,398 sites with planning permission, enough to last for almost three-and-a-half years at last year's building rates, plus options on a further 13,400 sites. In the six months to the end of June it sold 1,097 homes at an average cost of £95,100 and made an operating profit of £14.3m on a turnover of £111m, pushing up the profit margin yet again to 13.1 per cent.

Only three UK house-builders, Redrow, Wilson Bowden and Berkeley, did better.

In South-east England Bovis margins reached 17.4 per cent last year.

- Clifford German

## Diabetic tests boost Cortecs

Good test results from a new drug for diabetics sent shares in Cortecs International, the Anglo-Australian biotechnology company, soaring by 15 per cent to close at 203.5p after hitting 235p at one stage yesterday.

The company said trials for its experimental drug, Macrulin, showed "very encouraging" results which "present the real possibility of improving therapy for diabetics". The trials involved six diabetic patients.

Patients taking oral capsules containing Macrulin experienced a decline in their blood sugar levels, Cortecs said. The trial has not been

completed yet, but results are due later in the year.

However, some analysts said it was too early to say how meaningful the results were. Andrew Baum, an analyst with Morgan Stanley Dean Witter, said: "I am enormously sceptical of oral insulin. The precise doses required to regulate a patient's blood sugar vary, making the window for an effective dose very small."

Insulin is a naturally occurring hormone needed to process blood sugar into energy. Diabetics are either insensitive to the hormone, or have insufficient quantities of it.

سكرا من الامرين







## Euro will shake up the Continent more than the UK. Myth or fact?



**DIANE COYLE**  
ON WHY  
BRITAIN  
MUST STAY  
IN THE RACE

Many myths achieve the status of hallowed facts when they have been repeated often enough, and few are more hallowed than those concerning national economic performance.

Take the cliché that there are two distinct varieties of capitalism – the market-loving, equity-financed Anglo-Saxon variety and the corporatist, bank-financed Rhineland version. It's a neat contrast. But it isn't true in at least one key respect. German and French companies do not, as a group, finance their investment through loans from supportive banks keen to establish a long-term relationship with them. Nor do US and UK companies in the aggregate raise funds for investment from the stock market. Indeed, British firms raise more net finance than German ones via bank debt.

On the other hand, there are tremendous national differences in how well companies perform in terms of profitability or return on capital: those short-term Anglo-Saxons do significantly better than the Germans or Japanese. Investment in Britain has been far more worthwhile for at least the past six years. This in turn explains the much bigger stock

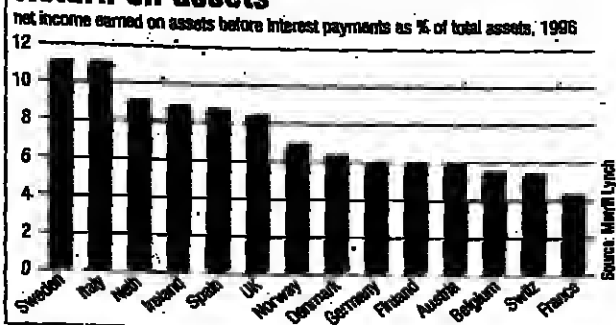
market gains in the US and UK over that period, even if the listed companies do not actually raise much of their net finance from issuing equities.

These facts – the real ones, as opposed to the myths – are presented in a fascinating paper written for Merrill Lynch by David Miles, Professor of Economics at Imperial College, London. They raise the prospect that the big adjustment to the single currency will be made, not by a lagging UK economy, but by badly performing German and French companies. And, if there is an adjustment, it could give a big one-off boost to the continental stock markets.

Back to the figures first of all. Measured by market capitalisation, the UK makes up a higher proportion of the value of Europe's top 500 companies than any other country, with 31 per cent. By balance-sheet value of assets, it has 22 per cent, just ahead of Germany and France. Drugs companies, banks, utilities, insurers and oil and gas producers are among the biggest companies. So it is groups such as Glaxo Wellcome and BP, SmithKline Beecham and BT, along with two Anglo-Dutch companies, Shell and Unilever, that make up the biggest elements of Britain's corporate might.

Looking at the corporate sector as a whole in each country, there is no evidence of any significant difference in how net finance for investment is raised. German companies actually have the lowest share of debt to market capitalisation in Europe, and it is not significantly different from gearing in the UK, according to the statistical tests. Germany's big corporate bond market, which dwarfs the UK's, consists of 99 per cent of asset-backed securities issued by banks. Bonds and bank loans are an insignificant source of funds outside the financial sector.

### Return on assets



The reason the differences in equity versus bond financing turn out to be insignificant is that in all countries the corporate sector uses internal funds, retained profits, to fund investment. Internal finance is hugely dominant. In the aggregate, funds raised externally are matched more or less by the acquisition of financial assets, although of course some individual companies raise external funds and different companies acquire the assets. These flows are what is mediated by the bond and equity markets and the banks.

So, over the years 1970-94, bank finance accounted for 11.9 per cent of the net funds raised by Germany's corporate sector, just higher than the 11.1 per cent in the US, but lower than the 14.6 per cent in the UK. Japanese firms did raise more this way, at 26.7 per cent of total net finance. Both corporate Germany and Japan raise small amounts via equities, but corporate Britain and America raised share capital to a small extent. German firms made net repayments of corporate bonds. Only in the US did net bond financing amount to anything noticeable, at 15.4 per cent of the total – presumably thanks to the junk bond era. The patterns have altered slightly in the 1990s. British companies have raised debt equity financing and seen a fall in the share of funds internally generated. Bond financing has dropped off in the US, and bank

financing in Japan, with the slack taken up by internal funds. But the overall picture remains a reality conforming not at all to stereotypes.

If countries are alike in how they raise their funds, mainly by retaining profits, they differ in the use to which they put that capital. Professor Miles finds that on any measure of performance the Rhineland capitalists are the dullards. Whether measured by earnings yield or return on assets, British companies have performed best since 1991, along with the Dutch, Irish and Swedish corporate sectors. Germany, France, Belgium and Austria have competed for bottom place. The return on assets in the UK, at 8.23 per cent from 1991-96, was more than twice France's 4.03 per cent, and much better too than Germany's 5.84 per cent. The difference might well reflect industrial structure, with Britain having more companies in the best-performing sectors such as utilities, retailing, leisure and drugs, and fewer in weaker performers such as cars and aerospace. If true, this explanation sheds an interesting light on the sale to foreigners of the British car industry.

What does this myth-demolition imply for the future? The launch of the single currency is likely to trigger some significant restructuring, and the assumption has always been that because Britain is so different from the continental economies,

Britain would have to adjust most. But it might be that the introduction of the euro, and a genuine single market, delivers more of a jolt to France and Germany. For example, the powerful home-country bias in equity investment by the big institutions will diminish, and funds will make allocations based on sector or company comparisons but not on a national basis. The pressure will be for the worst-performing companies to buck up their act. The German and French and Belgian corporate sectors might tend to become more profitable.

According to the paper, there will be a separate and enormous boost to the German stock market. At present, company pension funds are heavily invested in their own company, but they will increasingly diversify to invest in other companies. It makes no sense anyway for workers' pensions to be mainly invested in the company for which they work, putting all their financial eggs in the one basket.

The idea of portfolio diversification is likely to catch on generally with continental funds. German companies will therefore lose an internal source of funds and will have to fill the gap externally, which could represent a huge boost to the stock market.

Thirdly, transactions costs in Europe's stock markets will probably converge on the cheapest – London's – under the euro. Other markets could see a fall of 10 to 25 per cent in dealing spreads.

What it all adds up to is a boost for activity and share prices on the continental bourses during the first years of the single currency as the rest of Europe tries to catch up to Britain's secret corporate success. Only a hardheaded Europhobe would see this as another reason for the UK to stay outside the single currency, though; you can only keep ahead if you stay in the race.

## PEOPLE & BUSINESS

**LEA PATERSON**



Now here's a piece of advice for anyone who is scared of flying – forget all that guff about hypnosis, chatting to the pilot or route or knocking back a couple of stiff drinks before getting on the plane. If you really want to rid yourself of your phobia once and for all, make sure your family has homes scattered all over Europe and then have a go at starting up your own airline company.

Well that was certainly the tack chosen by Stelios Haji-Ioannou, son of millionaire Greek shipping magnate Loucas Haji-Ioannou and founder of no-frills airline easyJet. "I was scared of flying when I was a young boy," he told me yesterday, "I think I got it from my mother." But the frequent-flyer young Mr Haji-Ioannou soon got over his fears. "I was flying very often," he said, "my family had homes all over Europe."

So what does Mr Haji-Ioannou do when he isn't starting up new easyJet routes – most recently Liverpool-Nice and Liverpool-Amsterdam – or co-ordinating his campaign against any attempt by British Airways to launch a rival "no-frills" service – dubbed "BA Cheapo" by easyJet in a recent ad? Well, he flies, apparently. "I try and fly on easyJet about three or four times a week," he confessed. "It's the best way to find out what customers think." He also tries to fly to his house in Nice as often as he can.

Aside from flying, Mr Haji-Ioannou is also very fond of his boat, moored in Greece. There's only one problem though – easyJet doesn't fly to Greece.

"I have to fly with the competition, unfortunately," he said. And how does Mr Haji-Ioannou find his rival, BA? "Well, I interact a lot better with the pilots than the cabin crew," he said. "I frequently go into the cockpit and have a good chat with the pilot."

It doesn't look, however, as if Bob Ayling, head of BA, and friends will have the pleasure of Mr Haji-Ioannou's company on his trips back home to Greece for too much

longer. "Give me a year and we'll be flying to Athens," said easyJet's chief yesterday.

Former Abbey National manager Garry Brown woke up to a pleasant surprise recently – a cheque for £25,000 for "blowing the whistle" on fraudulent conduct by a senior director. Mr Brown, who has since left the company, received the unpublicised and unexpected gift after Mike Doyle, marketing services director, was jailed for eight years in July for defrauding the bank of an estimated £1m.

Mr Brown, who has since worked briefly for Volkswagen and the AA, said yesterday that he would spend his cheque on a backpacking journey around South America. "The money was quite unexpected. I didn't do it for that," he said.

Chris Conway, head of Digital Equipment, seems to be picking up jobs at a fine old pace. Only a few weeks ago, Mr Conway started work as a non-executive director at Granville Holdings. And earlier this week it was announced that the 53-year-old IT chief was to sit on the board of Manchester-based industrial services group, Brammer. It seems that Brammer hopes to benefit from Mr Conway's experience of both product distribution and European business.

Mr Conway's first day at work at Brammer was on Tuesday. And how was it, being the new boy on the block? "Fine," he said, "very interesting." There was a Brammer board meeting, apparently, much of which was spent discussing the French lorry drivers' strike. "The truck drivers look pretty determined this time," he noted.

You wouldn't think, on the face of it, that the softly spoken Mr Conway had much in common with the 30-year-old colourful Mr Haji-Ioannou. But a love of boats, it seems, links the two. "I am a keen leisure sailor," said Mr Conway yesterday. Mr Conway, unlike Mr Haji-Ioannou, does not have the dilemma of which airline to choose when he decides to take the boat out for the day – his boat is moored between Portsmouth and Southampton.

Congratulations to Richard Kersley and Steve Wright, equity strategists at BZW and ood footers members of the marathon runners club. They both completed the course in New York last weekend, although Mr Kersley gamely admitted it looked tough and go before his wife kicked him round the last six miles or so. No such cajoling was required for Mr Wright, aka action man, who strolled round in under three hours, finishing around 600th out of 30,000.

Both are now limbering up for the possibly more arduous challenge of individual interviews with their new paymasters at Credit Suisse. It remains to be seen whether Barclays' promise to match the charity fund-raising effort poured for pound (liability, about £2,000) will be assumed by BZW's new owners.

### Foreign Exchange Rates

Country	Sterling	1 month	3 month	D-Mark	1 month	3 month	1996
UK	100.00			100.00			
Australia	23.65	23.65	23.65	142.76	142.76	142.76	142.76
Austria	20.35	20.35	20.35	133.82	133.82	133.82	133.82
Belgium	33.33	33.33	33.33	33.33	33.33	33.33	33.33
Canada	23.65	23.65	23.65	133.82	133.82	133.82	133.82
Denmark	11.06	11.06	11.06	6.56	6.56	6.56	6.56
EU	14.53	14.53	14.53	14.53	14.53	14.53	14.53
Finland	6.84	6.84	6.84	5.91	5.91	5.91	5.91
France	6.84	6.84	6.84	5.91	5.91	5.91	5.91
Germany	2.06	2.06	2.06	1.93	1.93	1.93	1.93
Greece	43.25	43.25	43.25	26.92	26.92	26.92	26.92
Hong Kong	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75
Italy	13.76	13.76	13.76	13.76	13.76	13.76	13.76
Japan	20.35	20.35	20.35	133.82	133.82	133.82	133.82
Netherlands	20.35	20.35	20.35	133.82	133.82	133.82	133.82
New Zealand	2.06	2.06	2.06	1.93	1.93	1.93	1.93
Portugal	11.06	11.06	11.06	6.56	6.56	6.56	6.56
Spain	16.64	16.64	16.64	16.64	16.64	16.64	16.64
Sweden	11.06	11.06	11.06	6.56	6.56	6.56	6.56
Switzerland	2.06	2.06	2.06	1.93	1.93	1.93	1.93

### Other Spot Rates

Country	Sterling	Dollar	Country	Sterling	Dollar
Argentina	1.07	1.07	China	0.45	0.45
Brazil	1.07	1.07	France	0.45	0.45
Canada	1.07	1.07	Germany	0.45	0.45
Czech Rep	1.07	1.07	Italy	0.45	0.45
Denmark	1.07	1.07	Japan	0.45	0.45
EU	1.07	1.07	Netherlands	0.45	0.45
Finland	1.07	1.07	Portugal	0.45	0.45
France	1.07	1.07	Spain	0.45	0.45
Germany	1.07	1.07	Sweden	0.45	0.45
Greece	1.07	1.07	Switzerland	0.45	0.45
Hong Kong	1.07	1.07	UK	0.45	0.45
Italy	1.07	1.07	USA	0.45	0.45
Japan	1.07	1.07			
Netherlands	1.07	1.07			
Portugal	1.07	1.07			
Spain	1.07	1.07			
Sweden	1.07	1.07			
Switzerland	1.07	1.07			
UK	1.07	1.07			
USA	1.07	1.07			

### Interest Rates

Country	Rate	Country	Rate	Country	Rate
UK	7.00%	Germany	4.50%	US	5.50%
France	7.00%	Belgium	4.50%	Japan	5.50%
Italy	7.00%	Canada	4.50%	Denmark	5.50%
Netherlands	7.00%	Sweden	4.50%	Finland	5.50%
Spain	7.00%	Portugal	4.50%	Greece	5.50%
EU	7.00%	Switzerland	4.50%	Austria	5.50%
Belgium	7.00%	France	4.50%	Italy	5.50%
Canada	7.00%	Germany	4.50%	Japan	5.50%
Denmark	7.00%	Italy	4.50%	Netherlands	5.50%
Finland	7.00%	Portugal	4.50%	Spain	5.50%
France	7.00%	Sweden	4.50%	Switzerland	5.50%
Germany	7.00%	Switzerland	4.50%	Austria	5.50%
Italy	7.00%	Austria	4.50%	Belgium	5.50%
Japan	7.00%	Belgium	4.50%	Canada	5.50%
Netherlands	7.00%	Canada	4.50%	Denmark	5.50%
Portugal	7.00%	Denmark	4.50%	Finland	5.50%
Spain	7.00%	Finland	4.50%	Greece	5.50%
Sweden	7.00%	Greece	4.50%	Italy	5.50%
Switzerland	7.00%	Italy	4.50%	Japan	5.50%
Austria	7.00%	Japan	4.50%	Netherlands	5.50%
Belgium	7.00%	Netherlands	4.50%	Portugal	5.50%
Canada	7.00%	Portugal	4.50%	Spain	5.50%
Denmark	7.00%	Spain	4.50%	Sweden	5.50%
Finland	7.00%	Sweden	4.50%	Switzerland	5.50%
France	7.00%	Switzerland	4.50%	Austria	5.50%
Germany	7.00%	Austria	4.50%	Belgium	5.50%
Italy	7.00%	Belgium	4.50%	Canada	5.50%
Japan	7.00%	Canada	4.50%	Denmark	5.50%
Netherlands	7.00%	Denmark	4.50%	Finland	5.50%
Portugal	7.00%	Finland	4.50%	Greece	5.50%
Spain	7.00%	Greece	4.50%	Italy	5.50%
Sweden	7.00%	Italy	4.50%	Japan	5.50%
Switzerland	7.00%	Japan	4.50%	Netherlands	5.50%
Austria	7.00%	Netherlands	4.50%	Portugal	5.50%
Belgium	7.00%	Portugal	4.50%	Spain	5.50%
Canada	7.00%	Spain	4.50%	Sweden	5.50%
Denmark	7.00%	Sweden	4.50%	Switzerland	5.50%
Finland	7.00%	Switzerland	4.50%	Austria	5.50%
France	7.00%	Austria	4.50%	Belgium	5.50%
Germany	7.00%	Belgium	4.50%	Canada	5.50%
Italy	7.00%	Canada	4.50%	Denmark	5.50%
Japan	7.00%	Denmark	4.50%	Finland	5.50%
Netherlands	7.00%	Finland	4.50%	Greece	5.50%
Portugal	7.00%	Greece	4.50%	Italy	5.50%
Spain	7.00%	Italy	4.50%	Japan	5.50%
Sweden	7.00%	Japan	4.50%	Netherlands	5.50%
Switzerland	7.00%	Netherlands	4.50%	Portugal	5.50%
Austria	7.00%	Portugal	4.50%	Spain	5.50%
Belgium	7.00%	Spain	4.50%	Sweden	5.50%
Canada	7.00%	Sweden	4.50%	Switzerland	5.50%
Denmark	7.00%	Switzerland	4.50%	Austria	5.50%
Finland	7.00%	Austria	4.50%	Belgium	5.50%
France	7.00%	Belgium	4.50%	Canada	5.50%
Germany	7.00%	Canada	4.50%	Denmark	5.50%
Italy	7.00%	Denmark	4.50%	Finland	5.50%
Japan	7.00%	Finland	4.50%	Greece	5.50%
Netherlands	7.00%	Greece	4.50%	Italy	5.50%
Portugal	7.00%	Italy	4.50%	Japan	5.50%
Spain	7.00%	Japan	4.50%	Netherlands	5.50%
Sweden	7.00%	Netherlands	4.50%	Portugal	5.50%
Switzerland	7.00%	Portugal	4.50%	Spain	5.50%
Austria	7.00%	Spain	4.50%	Sweden	5.50%
Belgium	7.00%	Sweden	4.50%	Switzerland	5.50%
Canada	7.00%	Switzerland	4.50%	Austria	5.50%
Denmark	7.00%	Austria	4.50%	Belgium	5.50%
Finland	7.00%	Belgium	4.50%	Canada	5.50%
France	7.00%	Canada	4.50%	Denmark	5.50%
Germany	7.00%	Denmark	4.50%	Finland	5.50%
Italy	7.00%	Finland	4.50%	Greece	5.50%
Japan	7.00%	Greece	4.50%	Italy	5.50%
Netherlands	7.00%	Italy	4.50%	Japan	5.50%
Portugal	7.00%	Japan	4.50%	Netherlands	5.50%
Spain	7.00%	Netherlands	4.50%	Sweden	5.50%
Sweden	7.00%	Sweden	4.50%	Switzerland	5.50%
Switzerland	7.00%	Switzerland	4.50%	Austria	5.50%
Austria	7.00%	Austria	4.50%	Belgium	5.50%
Belgium	7.00%	Belgium	4.50%	Canada	5.50%
Canada	7.00%	Canada	4.50%	Denmark	5.50%
Denmark	7.00%	Denmark	4.50%	Finland	5.50%
Finland	7.00%	Finland	4.50%	Greece	5.50%
France	7.00%	Greece	4.50%	Italy	5.50%
Germany	7.00%	Italy	4.50%	Japan	5.50%
Italy	7.00%	Japan	4.50%	Netherlands	5.50%
Japan	7.00%	Netherlands	4.50%	Portugal	5.50%
Netherlands	7.00%	Portugal	4.50%	Spain	5.50%
Portugal	7.00%	Spain	4.50%	Sweden	5.50%
Spain	7.00%	Sweden	4.50%	Switzerland	5.50%
Sweden	7.00%	Switzerland	4.50%	Austria	5.50%
Switzerland	7.00%	Austria	4.50%	Belgium	5.50%
Austria	7.00%	Belgium	4.50%	Canada	5.50%
Belgium	7.00%	Canada	4.50%	Denmark	5.50%
Canada	7.00%	Denmark	4.50%	Finland	5.50%
Denmark	7.00%	Finland	4.50%	Greece	5.50%
Finland	7.00%	Greece	4.50%	Italy	5.50%



1. The first group of people who are not in the labor force are those who are not in the labor force because they are not in the labor force.

+

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GFIELD	972	982
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FOOTBALL

## Ince sets sights on place in European Cup

Despite defeat in the Uefa Cup on Tuesday, European ambitions still loom large at Anfield. Paul Walker reports.

Paul Ince has vowed to drive Liverpool back into Europe next season – in the Champions' League.

The Anfield captain underlined the feeling of anger and loss that followed the elimination from the Uefa Cup in the second round by Racing Strasbourg, a club only 14th in the French League. To be dumped by such a team has hurt the Reds, so used to nights of glorious success against far better teams than the one Strasbourg put out to protect their 3-0 lead from the first leg.

Ince was defiant, after Tuesday's 2-0 win for Liverpool saw his side go out 3-2 on aggregate. "It's disappointing to be out of Europe, it means so much to everyone at this club," he said. "We are absolutely gutted, mainly because we didn't feel we got the run of the ball when we needed it most in the second leg."

"Everyone is determined that we will be back in Europe next season, it is too important to this club. We must make sure we are in Europe again, with a good Premiership position that puts us in the Champions' League."

The Uefa Cup was a poor second prize for Liverpool at the end of last season, when for so long they had looked championship favourites. But their fade out at the end did not even

ensure they finished second, allowing Newcastle to sneak in and grab the European Cup Champions' League place allocated to the runners-up.

Now Ince, who had an outstanding game in midfield alongside the equally impressive Jamie Redknapp, believes Liverpool have to get their act together in the championship race. He said: "We must get our heads up, concentrate on our games with the next one against Spurs on Saturday."

Ince believes Liverpool proved themselves a better team than Strasbourg. He said: "We lost the tie out there with our display in the first leg. Last season, before I was at Liverpool, the club lost in identical fashion against Paris St-Germain."

"But I believe we didn't get the chances in that one, this time we created four or five more openings, and with a display like that proved we are a better team than them. We didn't get what we deserved, we didn't get the run of the ball when it mattered. But we gave it everything, the fans were fantastic and we didn't get the extra goals we deserved."

The Liverpool manager, Roy Evans, reckons that the shambolic defeat in France in the first leg could serve as a turning point in a topsy-turvy season that sees his under-achieving side labouring behind the front runners – particularly Manchester United.

Evans said: "If we can keep working as hard as we did in the Strasbourg game, I know we can go on to better things in the League. The players are dis-

appointed in the fact that we can be so inconsistent. But if they work as hard as that on a regular basis, you might not always play as well, but 99 times out of 100 you would get a result."

"I believe we can get there. Over the last three games since the first leg we have done much better. We beat Derby, it didn't quite go how we would have liked at Bolton but we still got a point, and now this one, I can ask for no more effort."

Evans reckons the tide could well have turned. He added: "We have been on the up since Strasbourg, particularly in the commitment of the players in training sessions and games. They have taken that responsibility and it has improved us in many ways."

"But the earlier form has put us out of the competition. But at least we have gone out with a fight, with all guns blazing. With a touch of fortune we would still be in it. We must take credit from that."

"We took all the stick and the flak from the Strasbourg game, quite rightly, it was fair criticism. But I think the boys deserve the praise this time for the way they went about their job. We lost the tie over there, to come back from 3-0 is very difficult."

"I can only praise the lads for having the belief to go out there and think they can achieve the result we wanted."

Liverpool now face successive home games against two Premiership strugglers, Tottenham and Barnsley, with a Coca-Cola Cup tie at home against Grimsby sandwiched between those two games.

CRICKET



Shahid Afridi, Pakistan's opening batsman, is bowled by Chaminda Vass for 63 during Sri Lanka's eight-wicket victory in the quadrangular one-day cricket tournament in Lahore yesterday. Match report, scoreboard, page 31. Photograph: B K Bangash/AP

RUGBY LEAGUE

## Wigan set to announce the reappointment of an uncommon coach

The most successful coach in British rugby league history will today return to the scene of his triumphs. Dave Hodfield awaits the second coming of John Monie.

Wigan will today confirm the reappointment of John Monie as the club's coach – a role he relinquished in 1994 after four hugely successful seasons.

The new Wigan chairman, Mike Nolan, admitted yesterday that Monie had agreed a two-year deal to assume control at Central Park once more.

It was news the board had hoped to suppress until the current Wigan coach, Eric Hughes, had been told the bad news. Hughes, who had been in charge for nine months, has been out of the country on holiday, but is now thought to be back. Attempts to contact him were, as of last night, unsuccessful, but the whole business will give him a dismal feeling of déjà vu.

The former Great Britain centre was sacked at St Helens less than two years ago to make

way for one Australian, Shaun McRae, and is now being ditched – after a season that ended with Wigan winning the Premiership – for another.

But Monie is – even to those who resent the extent of Antipodean influence in the game here – no ordinary Australian and no ordinary coach.

His four seasons saw Wigan dominate all domestic competitions and set new standards in the game here. He has never been a believer in returning to the scene of former successes,

but his experiences since have left him with something to prove.

His reign as the inaugural coach with the Auckland Warriors – for whom he left Wigan – was a disappointment and ended with him being sacked this season.

Since then, it has looked inevitable that he would return to Britain, where his reputation remains sky-high, but Leeds or projected franchises in Wales or Scotland were alternative destinations.

The new regime at Wigan, which bailed the club out of financial crisis last week, has moved swiftly to ensure that he will stage his British comeback at Central Park.

"He is the best there is," Nolan said. "He will be left to get on with the playing side and, if he needs players, the money will be available."

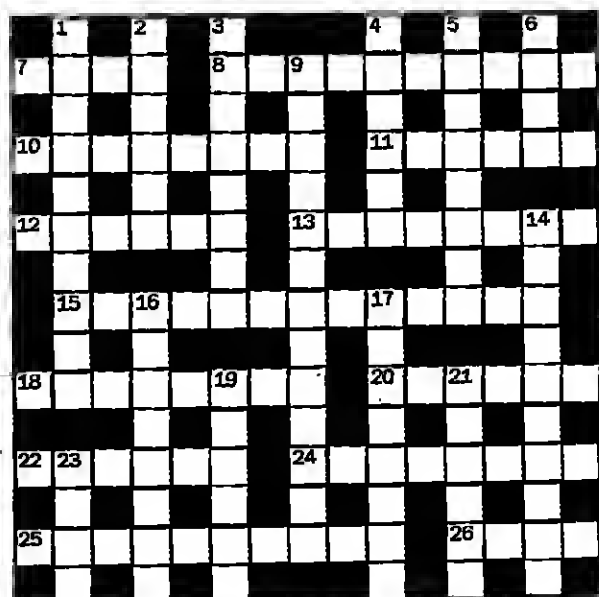
Despite rumours to that effect, Wigan will not appoint a high-profile co-coach, like Great Britain's Andy Goodway, to work alongside Monie. Simply bringing back the man most closely associated with their great days of the recent past is enough.

## THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 3449 Thursday 6 November

By Mass

Wednesday's solution



URCHES  
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OSTRIL  
INERTIA  
UPROLOGIST  
AGORA  
POWERLESSNESS

### ACROSS

- 7 Discharge from river, reportedly ... (4)
- 8 ... possible cause of a vile beach (10)
- 10 Rook's imbued with heart of early bird (8)
- 11 Birds beginning to develop combs (6)
- 12 Excessive figures of speech (3-3)
- 13 Delight in erected house skirted by rolling Northern river (8)
- 15 An admiral's authority? (13)
- 18 Key sequence for piano in version of 'Georgia' (8)

- 20 Girl's bitten into keen fruit (6)
  - 22 Does it prevent leaks in laundrette? (6)
  - 24 Garment in trendy yellow's better (8)
  - 25 Pop letters in going back from house (10)
  - 26 Irritate, ignoring the Parisian's call (4)
- ### DOWN
- 1 Study fisherman's dial? (10)
  - 2 Creature about to climb into pine (6)
  - 3 Plant with dead stem I force up (8)
  - 4 Sentence expressing ridicule (4,2)
  - 5 Meal for Scot, one yielding iron (8)

- 6 Outlet's bolted, we hear (4)
- 9 It's an attribute of mine (4,9)
- 14 Meddled? Pried? Tel. No. should be changed (10)
- 16 Tom's likely to see through this kind of thing (4-4)
- 17 Hollow? Former warning has point at last (8)
- 19 Bug a North European (6)
- 21 Ascetic, see, absent in spirit (6)
- 23 Briefly state word of grief (4)

# The heat is on.

Chelsea vs Tromso live from 7:30 tonight on 5

سكرا من الامم